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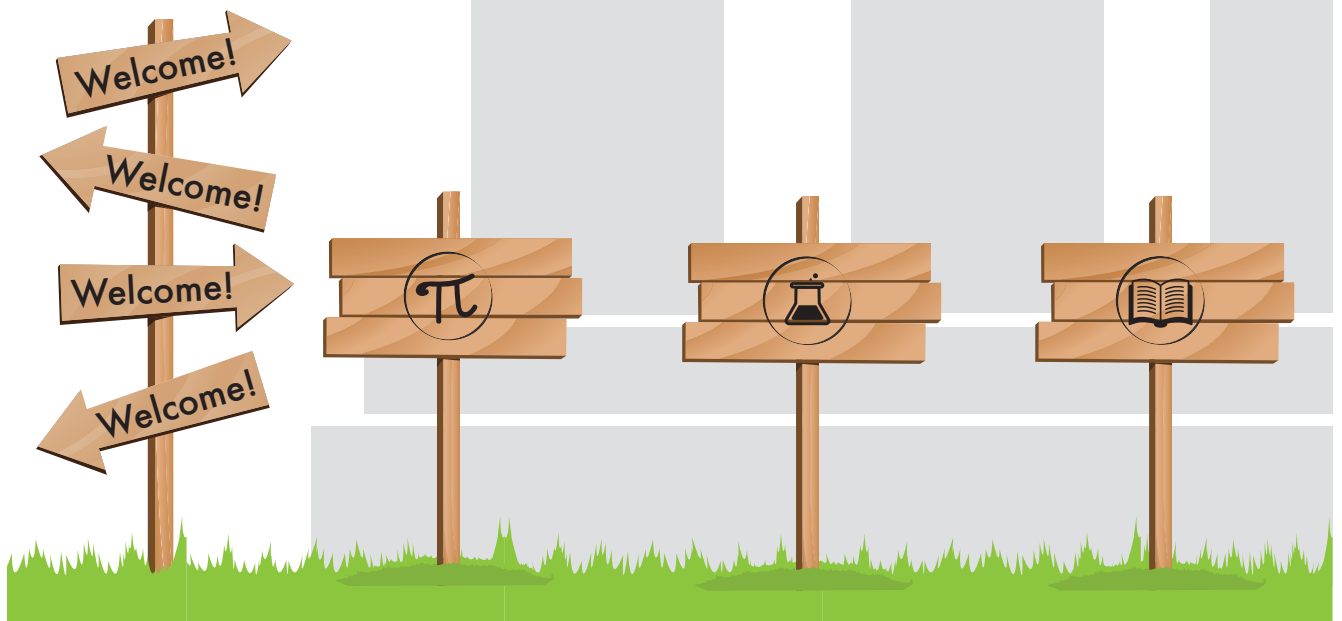
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Acceptance Students Day sees 140 student increase

Increase breaks record for most students to attend accepted student open house



by Jesse Plichta-Kellar
News Staff
@JesseKellar

On Saturday, April 8 during Spring Weekend, the admissions office hosted Acceptance Students Day with record attendance, according to Melissa Shepherd, director of financial aid and managing director of admissions at Longwood University.

"We had around 450 students, and a little over 1100 people, which is pretty big for an accepted students open house," Sheppard said. "The biggest one we had prior to this was around 310 students."

According to Shepherd, the admissions office does not know what the final enrollment for 2017-2018 will be, but the number is on track to exceed last year's. She also said that the number of deposits varies day to day, so exact estimates aren't predictable yet.

— "STUDENTS," CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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New fitness performance center to replace previous temporary gym location

Completion date set for second week of fall semester

by Shelby Massie
Asst. News Editor
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Longwood University has started the installation of a new fitness performance center underneath the north west apartment building at the Longwood Landings. Construction began early last week and will continue into the summer.

The space that is being used for the center is the location of the temporary fitness center last semester. The performance center was suggested to the Longwood Real Estate foundation by Matthew McGregor, dean of wellness, after the fitness center was relocated to its original place.

According to McGregor, the suggestion for this center came from surveys completed by members of club sports who wanted to have a strength and conditioning program, similar to what the intercollegiate athletes have access to in Iler Hall.

"This idea kind of came from, we had been thinking of it for a couple years, and really it came from a bunch of our, some surveys we had done with our sport club athletes," said McGregor.

Along with the feedback from students who are a part of club sports, McGregor shared that feedback from Exercise Science students communicated that there is a desire to work with individuals who are farther in their workout careers instead of just starting.

"A lot of them want to work with higher end athletes. Most of our personal training clients are people who are more on the beginning side of the scale," stated McGregor.

According to McGregor, he and the Longwood Real Estate Foundation discussed how the vendors under the Longwood Landings enjoyed the extra presence of students that were there while the fitness center was located there.

"Midtown is very excited to add the fitness performance center as a tenant. The activity and traffic will only benefit Longwood, other midtown tenants, as well as the greater community. I am thrilled that in the fall it will be up and running," said Louise Waller,

executive director of campus planning, construction and the Real Estate Foundation.

McGregor was quick to pitch his idea for the fitness performance center with the increased traffic as a selling point.

"At the time I'm like 'Well I got an idea for you, boy do I have an idea for you' and so we pitched this idea of the fitness performance center," McGregor said.

The space will differ from the current Student Health and Wellness Center in that it will not serve as a place that students come and swipe their Longwood ID and work out based on a personal routine, according to McGregor.

"We do some programming in here, but the primary purpose of this space (Student Health and Wellness Center) is informal recreation, or that's what we call informal recreation, self guided recreation. That space (fitness performance center) isn't going to be any of the self guided," McGregor stated.

According to McGregor, the new fitness performance center will be strictly instructor led and will be a combination of body weight exercises, crossfit and functional training. The center will also be offering a number of group fitness classes for individuals as well as groups of people.

The new facility will be open to individuals as well as groups of people such as organizations on campus. They will be able to rent out the space and an instructor will lead them through a group fitness program. McGregor also said that these programs will not cost the students any money.

"For the group fitness classes that we schedule down there, there wouldn't be any charges for those," McGregor stated.

According to McGregor, all the people involved in the project are very excited about its completion. Construction of the center is projected to be done a couple weeks into the 2017 fall semester.

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WMLU feels \$33,000 budget cut from SGA

Band compensation and agent fees were depleted by SGA to ask questions towards WMLU



WMLU was allotted \$66,000 for 2016-17's band compensation and agent fees; for 2017-18, their budget was cut in half.

ROTUNDA FILE PHOTO

by Christine Rindfleisch
News Editor
@longwoodrotunda

As the Student Government Association (SGA) finalized their annual budget for the 2017-18 year, WMLU along with Lancer Productions (LP), Student Educators for Active Leadership (SEAL), and Mortar Board all received budget cuts as tier one organizations.

According to Dustyn Hall, treasurer of the SGA, out of all the other organizations listed, WMLU received the largest budget cut.

"In the second to last budget session we did come out over budget," said Hall. "We (the SFC) feel that it's only fair that we go back through the tier ones who receive the most money and that we take and slash from their budgets first before we visit tiers two through five since tier one received 76

percent of our budget," said Hall.

The budget was projected to be \$14,000-\$16,000 over budget. The finalized budget was approved in the April 11 SGA meeting totaling \$703,325.17, according to Hall.

WMLU originally asked for \$60,000 for band compensation and \$6,000 for agent fees, totaling \$66,000, according to Hall.

After the first day of budget sessions, WMLU received a cut of \$33,000, leaving half of their original budget for the upcoming year, according to Hall.

According to Hall, on the second day of budgeting sessions, a motion was made and passed to deplete the desired budget for WMLU.

"It definitely hurt, sort of more of a confusion as to why the SGA cut it,

SGA meeting on April 4 to discuss it with the entire body.

"We (SGA) had about six or seven organizations there," said Hall.

WMLU was included in those six or seven organizations, represented by Gross.

"I went and I explained it and explained exactly what cutting \$60,000 from our band compensation meant because it meant that we couldn't have Bandfest, we knew that for students that would be heavily felt," said Gross.

Gross along with the president of LP, Rachel Hirsch, attended the meeting to ensure the SGA there was no feud between the two organizations.

"There is no conflict (between LP and WMLU), there might have been ten years ago when Bandfest was probably getting bigger and seen across campus more but this last year and even this year I worked extremely hard to make sure that we didn't keep the same genres as LP," said Gross.

During the April 4 SGA meeting, a motion was made and passed to add \$33,000 back into WMLU's budget, still leaving WMLU at half of their desired budget, according to Hall.

The budgeting process for the Student Finance Committee (SFC) is over the course of two to three days, depending on the year. The budget is determined by Hall along with the two SGA advisors—Dr. Tim Pierson, vice president of student affairs, and Cheryl Steele, dean of student engagement and fiscal technician with a number in mind, according to Hall.

"Overall, we came out under budget five or ten thousand dollars under budget... We as a committee would really like to thank student population and student organization leadership we know that this has been a tough year financially but we feel that our community has really stuck together," said Hall.

"We (WMLU) are hoping that next year if the event (Bandfest) does go well the SGA will see to allocate us more in the year after that," said Gross.

because I did anticipate a little honestly because budgets fluctuate every year but it really surprised the station," said Gretchen Gross, publicity chair and Bandfest chair of WMLU.

"We felt like there has been a real disconnect between WMLU and SGA and even involving Lancer Productions, that's how I feel, it was kind of the common theme amongst the board," added Hall.

The SFC holds the right to make desired cuts in order to remain under budget without a representative present but must notify the organization within 24 hours via email, according to Hall.

Stated in the email, organizations that wanted to revisit their budgets were informed to attend the then-upcoming

— “STUDENTS,” CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

“The admissions process is pretty fluid, some days you might get 50 deposits in, some days you might get five,” Sheppard explained.

According to Shepherd, the admissions office knows this because they have more deposits than they did this time last year.

The event welcomed both committed students and undecided students, with additional students committing during the event.

“We had about 50 people commit to Longwood on that day. And of course we’ve had more since then. A good amount of people who come to those have already paid their deposit, they’re just excited about Longwood and want a reason to come,” Shepherd said. “Of course there are the ones who are trying to decide.”

According to Shepherd, the acceptance rate is stable, but the number of applicants and acceptances increased this year.

There were four phases to the open house: the academic bullpen, the general session, the parents and students sessions, and an optional tailgate, according to Shepherd.

“We try and make the day as exciting as possible and

make them feel welcome here,” Shepherd said. “Typically an open house has an academic bullpen, is what we call it. Representatives from different majors come and we have them in Blackwell (Hall) and they have literature about their programs. Students can walk around the room, meet the faculty and talk to them.”

According to Shepherd, students at the event could also interact with support staff, such as the financial aid office and the registration office.

“We also have some support staff that come,” she said. “We have financial aid there, Residential and Commuter Life is there, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority life and other support staff. Someone from the registration office comes.”

After that, students and parents attended a general session. The location is usually Jarman Auditorium, but it was moved to Willet due to the volume of students, according to Shepherd.

Jordan Berkompas, a freshman math major and Ambassador, was among those giving tours.

“I think it went pretty good,” Berkompas said. “We had a lot of people there, lot of fun. The students were very

engaged.”

According to Berkompas, the event ran smoothly despite the large volume of visitors.

“There were probably 30 to 40 tours total, but it all went well,” said Berkompas. “The new students were really excited, and asked a lot of questions. They’re interested in more than just the basic stuff, that was exciting.”

Judy May, a sophomore chemistry major and ambassador said: “Accepted students are even more fun because it’s the day they’re either making their final decision or they know they want to go to Longwood ... Being able to share my love of Longwood with prospective students is one of my very favorite things.”

Shepherd said admissions is optimistic about the incoming class.

“We’re really excited about this class. We seem to have a lot of energetic folks that are really interested and excited in being Lancers,” she said. “Hopefully, this makes the students that are here feel like you’re going to have some classmates who are going to love Longwood just as much as you do.”

SPEAK UP!

When: 12 p.m. - 1 p.m., Wednesday, April 19

Where: In front of Ruffner Fountain

What: Tell *The Rotunda* your thoughts on national and campus news, get information from other student organizations and learn about joining the staff, all while jamming to music from WMLU.

Contact: therotundaonline@gmail.com

SFC Report: April 13

by Cassandra Maddox
News Staff
@longwoodrotunda

Senior Class Council

Allocation of \$5,000.

- Funds will go towards Senior Week.
- Funds will be used to purchase food and novelties at The Fishin' Pig
- Novelties such as T-Shirts for those involved
- The Student Finance Committee (SFC) approved the allocation

SGA Brief: April 11

Next year's budget approved and one constitution approved



The Student Government Association voted on their final 2017-18 budget across all tiers on April 11.

TAYLOR O' BERRY | THEROTUNDA

by Cassandra Maddox
News Staff
@longwoodrotunda

At the April 11 Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, the SGA went over the second and final reading of the SGA budget, as presented by Treasurer Dustyn Hall. The first reading took place during the previous meeting on April 4.

The reading consisted of going over the tier systems and the allocations for each tier. All allocations were approved by the SGA.

It was stated in the reading that the SGA's total allocation for the 2017-18 school year was \$703,325.17. This total was approved by the SGA.

Hall also presented the revised Student Finance Committee (SFC) bylaws to the SGA. The bylaws stated that the responsibility of allocating money to clubs and organizations would officially go to the SFC instead of approval from the SGA senate.

It was also stated in the bylaws that controversial requests for allocations may be appealed to the SGA for approval.

Hall mentioned that the revised SFC bylaws stated that \$1,000 would be guaranteed towards the Graduate Student Association (GSA) and the Resident and Commuter Life (RCL) Student Advisory Board at the beginning of each school year. Hall also pointed out that the bylaws would recognize the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) as an organization.

The SGA will make a motion regarding the approval of the revised

SFC bylaws during the next SGA meeting on April 18.

Junior Lev Taylor, treasurer of the Chess Club, attended the meeting requesting the approval of the club's constitution from the SGA.

Taylor stated that the club can help students by improving their logic and retention by playing chess. Taylor mentioned that the club can help train beginners and improve professionals. Eight members are currently in the club, as stated by Taylor.

The constitution was approved by the SGA.

Dr. Tim Pierson, vice president of student affairs, congratulated those in the SGA that were recognized for the Citizenship Leadership awards during Spring Weekend.

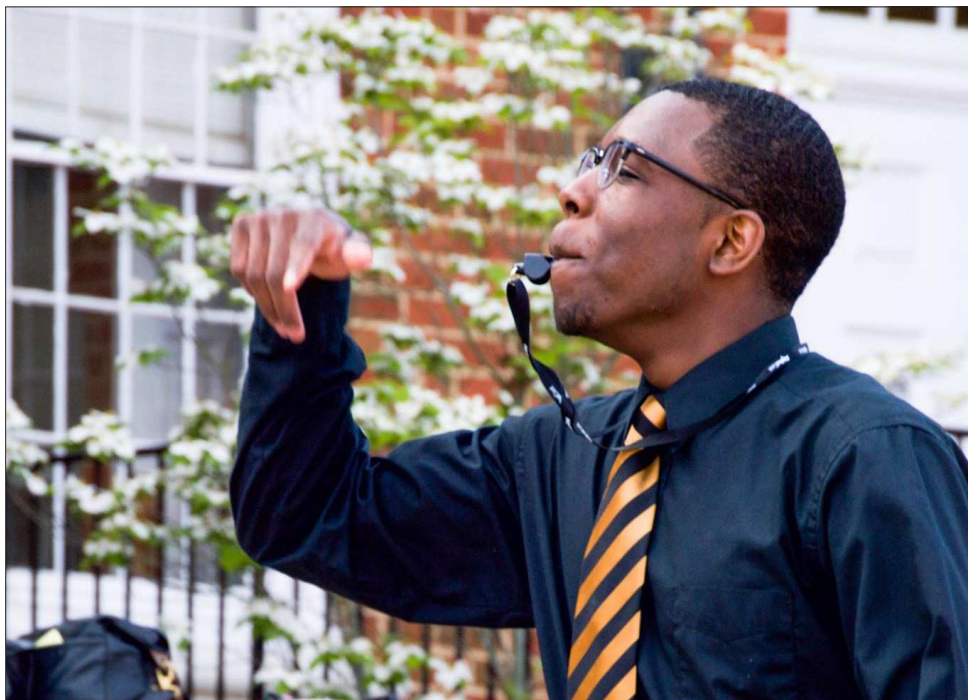
President Dillon Yonker encouraged the SGA to attend the swearing-in ceremony of those elected from the SGA elections on Monday, April 17 at 6 p.m. in Bedford Hall room 111.

Junior Javier Sydnor and Sophomore Cecil Hayes will also be inducted into the SGA during the ceremony. Hayes will be a representative for the Black Student Association (BSA) and Sydnor will be in the senate.

The next SGA meeting will be on Tuesday Apr. 18 in the Martinelli Board Room in Maugans Alumni Center at 3:45 p.m.

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HALLE PARKER | THE ROTUNDA

Humans of Longwood: Jonathan Bland

by Halle Parker
Editor-in-Chief
@_thehalparker

Jonathan Bland, physics senior, joined the brotherhood of Alpha Phi Omega, Inc. his sophomore year, moving through the rigorous application and testing process of the historically black National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. organizations. Since then, projects with his brothers have helped him discover his passion for mentoring others.

“One of our fraternity brothers, Nate (Dyer’s) aunt runs a foster care-type center and then she has a program that pretty much invites youth to come play basketball and give them a safe space, so we worked with them not too long ago.

I really like mentorship. I’ve worked with a church in Crewe that has set up a program to help tutor students who are struggling in school, so I’ve done stuff like that. ... We tutor them in their trouble subjects because they’re pretty much about to lose accreditation because the SOL (Standards of Learning) scores are so bad.

(I got into mentorship) probably through my fraternity, which is one thing we really pride ourselves on is trying to mentor the youth and trying to uplift the youth, so I think that’s one thing that really brought something out of me.

Learning through the experiences of joining this fraternity, different stuff like that has helped me grow, which is one of the reasons why I always stay busy is because I was so busy back then that now I wouldn’t want to just sit around and waste time when I know I have that time to give.”

”

Heart healthy student-faculty competition filled Willett

ARC Quad Community hosts third annual Longwood Hearts Basketball game

by Miranda Farley
Social Media Editor
@mir4nd9

On Wednesday night, over 300 guests attended the third annual Longwood Hearts Basketball game. Music played throughout the Jerome Kersey Court in Willett Hall during the entire event as students danced in the stands cheering on the two teams. Students anticipated the different prize giveaways, including Chance The Rapper tickets and numerous gift cards to Sweet Frog, Sheetz and other small local businesses.

This year’s game saw a significant increase in prize giveaways. Sophomore resident assistant (RA) Sarah Kasko focused a majority of her time reaching out to the community for prize giveaways with three other people.

“We went out to local businesses and I emailed over a 100 organizations on Longwood’s campus through Lancer Link, and with that I got about 35 prizes to be able to give away,” said Kasko.

During the game, fans listened to heart health facts while the staff and faculty faced the students in 15 minute halves. There were mini games going on throughout the event, which allowed the fans to be involved in the game even if they were not playing.

The team of staff and professors were made up of multiple Aramark employees as well as several professors. Biology professor Dr. Franssen, communication studies professor Dr. Stouffer, campus recreation operations manager Daniel Wooten, health and physical education professor Dr. Mucedola and director of marketing and fan engagement Steve “Lancer Pants” Robertson were just some of the players that made up the team of professors and



TAYLOR O'BERRY | THE ROTUNDA

staff.

The students won the game for the third year in a row. Junior Casey Ripp, senior Zachary Lane, junior Praise Nyambiya and freshman Rico Pena are a few of the players on the student team.

According to junior RA Kate Bridges, the “systematic planning” for this event started in January. The RAs dedicated over an hour and a half a week to the planning for Longwood Hearts Basketball and were pleased with the turnout. The attendees increased from 200 to about 315 fans over the past three events.

Senior RA Amanda Chappell was a part of the planning process for all three years. “I think my favorite part of the event was when I finally just sat down and started watching the game because at first, I was running around trying to make sure everything was okay,” said Chappell.

According to Chappell, it was really exciting to watch the faculty and staff interact with the students during the game, she described the atmosphere as intense.

A creative approach to a touchy subject

Farmville Library hosts slam poetry for residents to raise awareness for sexual assault

by Rae Mundie
Features Staff
@rjmundie

It's difficult to raise awareness for the sensitive subject of sexual abuse and assault. On Thursday, Madeline's House hosted a slam poetry event at the Farmville Library to raise awareness during sexual assault and abuse awareness month.

Madeline's House, established in 1999, is a non-profit organization that helps anyone who is suffering from domestic and/or sexual abuse. The organization's name came from a woman named Madeline who suffered from mental and physical abuse from her husband.

"Her story is a compelling one, I'm from the area, I grew up knowing the story," said Farmville resident Alyce Loeser. "The story has meant different things for me at different times in my life, especially now that I have daughters."

Trying to ensure the safety of her two daughters and trying to get away from her estranged husband, Madeline was unable to find a shelter for her and the girls. She was able to stay with friends close to her home, but on Sept.

6, 1998, her husband broke into the house and killed Madeline before killing himself. Their daughters had been ordered to stay outside during the confrontation and therefore, survived.

"I think what Madeline's House does is very important, and I like poetry, (so) I thought it was a great combination of the two," said Loeser.

"I thought it was fabulous, it's hard to bring awareness to sexual assault in a not workshoppy way, a much more creative way," said Dr. Jennifer Glass, Longwood staff psychologist. "This would be a cool way to get more participation on campus."

Residents from Farmville and students from Longwood University listened and cited different poems about domestic and/or sexual assault. Some of the poems were written by the speakers, while others were read from published poets. Loeser was one of the candidates who wrote a poem for the event, about how Madeline's house was not only important,

but what it meant to her.

"I think it went pretty well, always nice to see a room full of people who are passionate about the same thing," said Kaitlyn Considine, case worker at Madeline's House.

After each piece of poetry was presented, the room would clap and there would be discussion about the inspiration for the piece and its significance. Most of the poems were about sexual assault and/or abuse, some of them personal, while others spoke of someone else's story.

"I've always really loved poetry, it's like condensed soup, it has all of the substance of a larger piece of work but it's just condensed down," said Elizabeth Chassey, domestic violence and sexual abuse program director. "I feel like it's as strong, if not stronger, than prose, the way things are compact like that make it more visceral and immediate and that's very similar to trauma."



Student Specials!

- SVM1: Large 1-Topping
- SVM2: Medium cheese & 16 Parm Bites
- SVM3: Extra-Large Cheese

All \$7.99 for carryout or Delivery!

We also have several group/party order specials and always our 7.99 large carryout and 5.99 mix and match deal!

Longwood Big Siblings: A small picture organization

Program president Kate Bridges explains its purpose and impact on Prince Edward County students



The Big Siblings train to learn how to properly act for and towards their 'little siblings.'



EVA WITTKOSKI | THE ROTUNDA

by Megan Gary
Features Staff
@longwoodrotunda

The mission of the Big Siblings program at Longwood University is to “touch the lives of children who may need encouragement and support otherwise offered by older siblings.” The program pairs Longwood students with children at Prince Edward County Elementary School.

In previous years, Big Siblings also worked within the local middle school. They hope to re-establish this connection in time, said Bridges. The school, Prince Edward County Middle School, recently acquired a new guidance counselor.

Kate Bridges, the program’s president, said they are waiting for the counselor to get acclimated to their position before they reinstate the program at the school.

The Longwood students involved in the program, or the “big” as they are termed, “go to (the students, or “littles”), mentor them and listen to them,” said Bridges. Bridges, an elementary education junior, joined the program in the spring of her freshmen year.

Bridges said the Longwood “big” get matched with a “little” that have been recommended to the guidance counselor in the school to be part of this program. These particular elementary students are recommended because they may be having behavioral problems in class.

“Or they need to talk to someone or need a good example in their life,” Bridges said.

The Big Siblings president said there’s a particular need for this program in the Farmville community.

“Any school you go into there are going to be troubled kids. But the community has pockets of poverty around and a lot of the students are affected by that,” she said.

“I have a second grade little,” Bridges said, smiling before correcting herself. “Sorry, a third grade little. She moved grades.”

The Longwood “big” meet with their “littles” once a week. Usually, they eat lunch, spend recess with them in school or go to class with them depending on the teacher,

explained Bridges.

Bridges describes Big Siblings as less of “big picture organization.” She says they focus on “one small aspect of the community” in order to contribute to the community as a whole.

The Longwood “big” themselves aren’t always looking for drastic results, finding satisfaction in the little differences they make in their one “little’s” life. That’s what Bridges said she believes mentorship truly is, helping one person in small ways in order to better help everyone.

“Our members are always coming to us and telling us stories about how their littles are doing better in school, or they’re starting to talk to them and open up to them,” Bridges said.

For students who may be interested in learning more about the Big Siblings Program, contact Big Siblings membership chairman Kayla Mainzer.

Richmond-based photographer pays tribute to Holocaust survivor

LCVA began exhibiting work on Thursday



ANN POLEK | THE ROTUNDA

Dean Whitbeck (pictured far right) spoke to a Longwood photography class on the opening day of his display in the lower floor of the Longwood Center for Visual Arts on Thursday.

by David Pettyjohn
Features Staff
@PettyjohnDavid

It has now been 72 years since the Auschwitz death camp was liberated by Allied forces, and Richmond-based photographer Dean Whitbeck is helping to tell the stories of some of the survivors that are still around. His work is now on display at the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts, where visitors can see 25 of his portraits, each of a different survivor from the Richmond area.

Whitbeck is a former high school teacher from California, who became a photographer dedicated to showcasing people from disadvantaged communities.

He started photography work when he was a history teacher at an inner city high school in California, and he found that taking the students' pictures increased their self-esteem.

"I guess 'freelance' is an accurate word to describe the work I do," said Whitbeck. "I'm a project-based documentarian photographer; I seek projects where I can engage communities through photography."

Whitbeck said he seeks out various different types of entities to work with, such as nonprofits, governments and corporations. Other work of his focuses on refugees, including refugees from the Syrian Civil War and those fleeing political violence in Somalia.

One of his previous funders worked for the Jewish Federation of Richmond; he asked Whitbeck to take these pictures to commemorate this 70th anniversary as part of a

city-wide education campaign. The project took 15 months, involving efforts from the Weinstein Jewish Community Center and the Virginia Holocaust Museum.

Like much of the southern United States, the Richmond area has an unusually large number of Holocaust survivors. Whitbeck says that this is because the close-knit community of Holocaust survivors migrated there to avoid the oversaturation of workers in places like New York City, who created a lack of employment options.

"Richmond became a really interesting place back in the mid to late 50s," Whitbeck said. "Because there was so much opportunity here."

The Virginia Holocaust Museum had a database of the names of Holocaust survivors in the area, so it was easy for them to find subjects for Whitbeck's work. Whitbeck describes the Jewish community in Richmond as "very tight and very profound."

All of the pictures are close up portraits of the subjects, and all are printed in sepia. However, no two pictures are the same. Whitbeck pointed out that the way the subjects look at the camera often reveal something about them.

"This gentleman," said Whitbeck, pointing to a picture of a man looking away from the camera, "never really looked me in the eye ... and I recognized that was his comfort zone."

Almost all of the pictures ... were similar in that (way),"

he added. "As much as I tried to get him to look at me, there was a lot of aversion." Whitbeck says that this subject's focus was not "based around as much of a curatorial position, as it was just a sense of where he was."

On the left was a photograph of a man looking directly at the camera.

"I was able to get him to do that, there are plenty of other photographs where he did not, but we thought that ... really spoke of his authenticity," Whitbeck said.

Next to that photo was one of a man looking over his glasses at the camera. "This gentleman here, who's looking down, he did that a lot," said Whitbeck, who explained that this the only way man could see at such a short distance.

"He's a doctor of psychology, and he has almost this Freudian look to him when he would talk to me, like I was the student," Whitbeck said. "He always looked me dead in the eyes, like he was trying to exact some kind of truth from me."

The sepia filter was settled on by the funders in post-production. Whitbeck said this is because it gave a historic feel to the pictures, but also a sense of looking to the future.

"It was something that (the community) felt would be really beautiful," he said. "And the tone was an archival sense, but the process of doing it digitally was a very forward process."

“Table Manners” packs a strong, outrageous punch

Who needs table manners anyway?



theatre

TABLE MANNERS

by Alan Ayckbourn

Norman has his hands full...

COURTESY OF LONGWOOD THEATRE

by Richie Kamtchoum
A&E Staff
@richiepbm

In theatre, the cast tends to make or break a production, regardless of lighting, music, setting and to a lesser extent the screenwriting. When a cast is truly in sync, it is wonderful to behold. Longwood University theatre department's rendition of “Table Manners” fits in said category, with an ensemble cast that moved like a well-oiled machine.

The play, written by Alan Ayckbourn is a comedy about a group of acquaintances and friends spending a weekend together at a home set on the countryside of England in the mid-1970s. Everyone in the house has a love/hate relationship amongst each other, which climaxes at the big dinner, hence “table manners.”

The cast dynamic was relatively even, with no one character seeming to emerge as the “main” character. The set was well lit, as a grand dining table sat in middle surrounded by what was presumably the rest of the dining room. Nothing special and perhaps even a bit boring, but a good setting to amplify character to character dialogue.

That dialogue, a well written series of personal afflictions,

revelations, banter and everything in between carried the play and was executed to a tee by the cast of six. Seriously, there was no “weak” character, with each character stealing at least one scene.

The biggest grievance to take with the play is Act 1 being significantly less entertaining than Act 2. Not to say half the play was boring, but it took a while for the fireworks to start going and the jokes just didn't hit all that well in the first act. Long dialogues that felt overrun didn't help either, as jokes can seem tired during longer scenes.

Whatever issue I took up with Act 1 quickly faded in Act 2 as the intensity ratcheted up. As the plot revealed itself and the central figure (not main character) revealed his mischievous intentions, a lot of the scenes became laugh out loud funny.

That central figure, Norman (played by Jordan Stroud) is a retroactive pimp in every sense of the word, wooing every girl in the house at some point or another. It's his ill-intentions that creates the most stirring moments too as

the crowd is thrown off when he convinces his adversary Sarah (played by Kasey Gliszczynski) to spend a weekend with him.

If there had to be one, Norman is probably the most outstanding cast member amongst a hilarious bunch. Ruth (played by Baylee Holloran) also seemed to do the most with her time, receiving the least amount of it, but displaying a ton of emotion and acting chops during so. If there had to be a third, Tom (played by Harrison Runion) was a goofy good-guy that was too easy to root for, a true gentleman and probably the protagonist if Norman could be considered an antagonist.

The whole cast of “Table Manners” was excellent as a memorable climax, the dinner in which no character displayed any table manners was as funny as they come. “Table Manners” excels when keeping it simple and letting the characters be as outrageous as they were intended to be, which it did for the majority of the play. Kudos for bringing the laughs.

THE REEL LIFE

{movie reviews by jacob dilandro}

"Fate of the Furious"

by Jacob DiLandro
A&E Staff
@spongejay1

Like them or not, the "Fast & Furious" franchise rakes in cash at the box office with every new installment. While they used to be the joke of Hollywood, a new focus on character and an embracing of the bizarre and over the top actions and stunts helped the franchise find new life with "Fast Five" and the following films have replicated that critical and box office success. Can this latest installment continue the streak, or is the franchise back to spinning its wheels?

Opening with a fun, but basically pointless race sequence in Cuba, fans know exactly what to expect. This is the franchise they know and love. Vin Diesel continues to gargle gravel for his earnest and scenery chewing performance as Dom and the rest of the cast delivers in exactly the ways you'd expect.

Nobody is expecting to win an Oscar, but they still keep the energy high, the quips flying and the collateral damage to the highest degree. Charlize Theron isn't seen much and that's for the best. She isn't bad, she just isn't interesting.

Mr. Nobody, played by Kurt Russell, is thoroughly enthusiastic and entertaining. Jason Statham also returns and has that same anarchistic grin on his face that delivers a bravado big enough to stand up to Diesel and Dwayne Johnson.

Johnson is gleefully macho. Whether it's teaching his daughter's soccer team a warrior's chant to intimidate the opposite team, or using lines like "I will beat your ass like a Cherokee drum," he is one of the most enjoyable characters in the film.

The same goes for Michelle Rodriguez and while she doesn't get as many good lines, she still manages to be entertaining and engaging.

Collateral damage, as previously mentioned, is in full swing here. While nobody is jumping from skyscraper to skyscraper, there are still plenty of standout moments here. Sequences that counter the fire and bright colors of the cars against the Russian tundra are enjoyable, but the best sequence in the entire film, without spoiling, involves 'zombie cars.'

The biggest issue and one that plagues almost the entire film, is that it lacks the spirit of the past movies. It feels like someone took the characters, quips, and set pieces and put them in a generic spy thriller. The anarchistic spirit that the past films had isn't here. This leads to some cringe worthy dialogue when the plot actually wants to be told. The 'crocodile in the water' monologue from Theron is just...awful.

"Fate of the Furious" isn't bad. Its action set pieces, quippy dialogue, and characters help to pad out a lackluster plot and forgettable villain. There are some great themes of family, it is a Fast & Furious movie after all and the last forty minutes are pure over the top action glee. But after a film as good as "Furious 7," "Fate" is an enjoyable ride, just not a memorable one.



3/5

"Sandy Wexler"

by Jacob DiLandro
A&E Staff
@spongejay1

In the early 2000's, Adam Sandler was king. After a stint on Saturday Night Live, he came out with a string of commercially successful, if critical divisive films that audiences flocked to. Now though, he's had more hits than misses and after his contract with Netflix gave him arguably his worst film ever ("The Ridiculous Six"), could, what appears to be, a more serious film give Sandler the push he needs to be a big name in comedy once again?

Sandy Wexler is a '90s talent manager for anyone he can get his hands on in Hollywood. Puppeteers, musicians, comedians, Sandy will back anyone. Soon, he finds a singer in a theme park, Courtney Clark (Jennifer Hudson), that he thinks could be the next big thing and he uses his limited skills and contacts to try and make her a star.

Of the few things this movie does right, Sandy and Courtney are the biggest successes. Sandler seems like he's actually trying for once. He doesn't succeed all the time, but he manages to imbue Wexler with a good guy attitude that is genuinely charming.

It's a break from the past shtick of playing rich jerk guys because, while Sandy may lie to his clients, you can see that he genuinely cares and is trying. Hudson provides her gorgeous voice, but also a smile and an upbeat attitude that helps to balance out the generally low quality of the jokes.

At two hours and eleven minutes, "Sandy Wexler" drags like a corpse. Easily forty minutes could have been shaved off the movie by cutting some of the worst jokes Sandler has ever attempted. For the most

part the movie is semi-serious, peppering in some pop culture references and one or two sentence long jabs.

However, there are other jokes that take up whole scenes that not only feel unnecessary, but like they come from a completely different film. Some are, but not limited to, a clown's suicide and playing puppet with an unconscious man's body. Surprisingly, those two are not as closely related as you'd think.

The rest of the cast is rounded out by Sandler's typical crew. Terry Crews and Kevin James show up and are pleasant. Not terribly funny, although Crews does get some good screen time as a bedtime themed wrestler.

Nick Swardson is also here, as useless as he's ever been in a Sandler film, and Rob Schneider plays a Iranian business man who spies on Sandy as he lives in his pool house while he's away. Complete with brownface for his actual starring scenes as well.

"Sandy Wexler" sees Sandler and company trying for once. There's a predictable, but earnest story about love and honesty framed around a likable Sandler character. Even his voice isn't nearly as annoying as you'd think it would be. But a gargantuan runtime, loads of useless characters and jokes, a flip flopping tone and downright awful scenes that serve no purpose than to tell a mean joke means that, while his best film since "Funny People," "Sandy Wexler" is just as annoying Sandler as ever. 1.5/5



1.5/5

Spring weather allergies: Give them your best fight

by Paulina A. Marinero
Opinions Editor
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It's that time of the year again, and no, I don't mean the beautiful side of Spring. I'm talking about the coughing sensation, runny nose and sore throat dilemma we face this time of the year. If you're not prepared for the outdoors, consider trying my tips and good luck!

First, Spring means the flowers blooming into dandelions and the trees standing tall and green. April showers bring May flowers, right?

With all the wild-life blooming, that means pollen is growing and flying everywhere to fertilize other plants as far as the wind can push those small particles. So, it's no wonder you see everyone around you sneezing up a storm and grabbing the nearest tissues; it's allergy season!

Getting your allergies taken care of can save you the hassle of not being in bed all day. Allergies can affect your ability to work, study and even sleep. Especially this time of the semester for all my student readers, you can't afford a sick day.

My first tip is to close your windows, especially at night before you fall asleep. Having your windows open gives any pollen or dust the opportunity to sneak in and disturb your breathing pattern. This tip is one of my favorites because from

personal experience, if I leave the windows even cracked at night, my throat will suffer the consequences. I've even seen people use masks when they're outside which doesn't sound like a bad idea. You can't escape the great outdoors, so might as well work around it.

My next tip is to take a hot shower before you go to sleep. Although there are some suggestions saying you shouldn't shower before you sleep, I think for allergy season it's a must. Giving yourself a hot shower will allow the steamy temperature to relieve your dry pores and give your nostrils the necessary moisture it needs. After stepping out of the shower and hopping in bed, you can go to sleep in peace knowing your nose has been washed and revitalized for the next day.

I've had numerous questions on how to get rid of a sore throat and since my allergies result in solely sore throats, I have a few tips for this one. I really recommend drinking water, and any other medical doctor will advise this too. Think of water as your body's personal shower – moisturizing your throat after a rough day of mucus clogging your glands. Not only that, but water is key to life. The water you drink today is the water your body will use tomorrow, so fuel

up!

I also suggest trying salt and water gargles, like mouthwash. You can use it at room temperature, but I usually boil my water, add salt and then wait for it to cool down for use. After a few gargles and spitting it out, my throat no longer feels raspy or even that insane itch no one seems to be able to reach with their tongue – we're all guilty of that. My theory to this is the salt acts as an exfoliator on the throat, cleaning all the old, mucus cells away when you spit it out.

My last tip for a sore throat is purchasing Claritin (\$19) or Zyrtec (\$14) from your local drugstore. I've personally never tried either, but others rave about these two allergy-focused medications. They claim to last four to 12 hours when you're outside in the pollen-infested fields and according to many reviews on Target and Walmart, it actually works. Now, in no way am I telling you to purchase it. Try the two D.I.Y. tips I gave you first, so you won't waste money if it's not necessary.

My next tip is probably the most important when it comes to things you can actually take care of. You can't control the amount of pollen outside when you're walking by your favorite florist shop, but you can control your space at home and keeping it clean.

I'm not talking about the dinner table you clean every day after a good feast, I mean the furniture you haven't moved in months – collecting dust and debris over time. Any furniture or fancy paintings you haven't touched in ages need a good clean too. Even wetting a paper towel and swiping the dust away does just the trick.

Now that we're practically done with Winter, when was the last time you used your fan? You're most likely going to start using it again as the weather gets warmer and more humid, but before you turn it on, stop and clean the wings of the fan before you start walking around in dust-infested air.

Lastly, if you truly do suffer from allergies with severe symptoms, consider visiting your doctor and have them test/diagnose you for allergy implications. Even if you don't suffer from allergies all-year round, some bacteria build up from the pollen/dust can hide dormant in your system and cause serious allergy episodes later down the road, get that treated now instead of waiting for next spring!

The good thing about getting ready now for spring allergies is you'll have a stronger immune system for summer weather. Isn't that what we're all waiting for anyways?

D-hall food, friend or foe?

by Vivian Gray
Opinions Staff
@longwoodrotunda

Does your stomach churn after eating that unsure hotdog at D-hall? If you answered yes, then you're a part of a large portion of the student body that feels the exact same way. Recently, however, Dorrill Dining Hall at Longwood University has been stepping up their game. I've noticed the quality of the food has improved as well as the cleanliness of the cafeteria.

Now, on the drink machines and around the food stations I've noticed there have been signs listing the number of calories that are in the foods we are consuming. For example, the sandwich station now has a sign next to it which shows all the different types of meats, cheeses, and veggies you can get on a sandwich and next to these are the

number of calories in each item.

This shows that D-hall is starting to care about our dietary health as well as noticing that we students do care about the food we put in our bodies. D-hall has also added a variety of new items to the menu that have caught many students' eyes and as well as their stomachs.

Now there are waters diffused with different types of fruit that are very popular, but also the new desserts that D-hall have been dishing out are getting lots of attention. These fancy decadent desserts have been hitting a home run with students. Not only do they taste great but look great.

D-hall has also put plastic containers around their pre-made bake goods to protect them throughout the day. In

the past, these desserts have looked unappetizing and had the potential to find an unwanted hair on your dessert due to the prior lack of protection of these baked goods.

These changes in our dining experience could have been impacted by the survey sent out to the parents of Longwood students sent on Feb. 23, 2017 from Ashley Jones, Dining marketing assistant here on campus. Jones was inquiring about the quality of our dining hall; while these changes are small, at least they are steps in the right direction.

The changes that D-hall has been making are evidence they are trying to step up their game. I think these changes have made eating in D-hall a more pleasurable dining experience as well as a healthier one too.

ROTONION

{Pronounced: row • ton • yun (noun); a ridiculous argument column}

CHALKING UP CAMPUS AND GRINDR PROFILES

His answers

by Austin Berry
Layout Staff
@austinoburrito



Austin Berry, former layout editor, wore the look of shame as he realized that he forgot to submit his response to *The Rotonion* this week. He promised to keep up with it from now on, and hopes his weekly readers will find it in the kindness of their hearts to forgive him.

Her answers

by Cassie Tagert
Copy Editor
@longwoodrotunda

Q1: “What’s going on with the chalk protest on campus?”

For those who are unaware, there was a protest on Longwood’s campus last week in response to the rule Longwood made regarding the use of chalk on campus.

Recently, there have been a growing number of protests on our campus as well as other campuses across the nation. Some to fight for social liberties like equal treatment between the sexes and support for refugees, others have been for more low-key issues like the need for freedom of speech and ability to draw on someone else’s property.

The chalk protest was just that- a protest against Longwood’s policy limiting the public and student community’s capacity to draw on campus.

This is a completely unfair policy because students are always trying to draw on campus, and we’re tired of being arrested and punished for rubbing erasable rock dust against pavement.

In that same vein, there are other protests coming up soon regarding other stupid rules Longwood has. Next Wednesday, we’re having a walk in support of students with GPAs lower than a 2.0. (Fight the discrimination against laziness!) The following Friday, we will be protesting the laws against public indecency by urinating in front of Ruffner Fountain. (People should be able to pee wherever they want!) There are also plans for a protest against wasted D-hall chicken nuggets; we’re hoping to do this around exam week.

Always remember, if there’s a rule that you don’t like or feel is unjust, it’s our job as citizens

to fight those laws and keep society moving in a direction that best suits us, no matter if it inconveniences others or not.

Q2: “Why aren’t any girls replying to the Grindr account I made?”

This is a tricky question. There could be any number of reasons that girls aren’t responding to your Grindr account.

How are your profile pictures? Have you considered filling them with pictures of you with all your friends? Women love it when they can’t tell which person in the photos is the one they’re talking to. Perhaps you could try using pictures of you doing any unique sports like scuba diving, fencing or jousting. The best pictures are the ones where the subject’s face is obscured by plastic or metal masks. Ditch the cute puppy picture. Go full suit of armor. 100% success rate guaranteed.

What about your bio? Sometimes bios can be misleading. Just tell them straight up what you’re looking for. If you’re only looking for someone to drag to your frat’s date parties, make sure you let them know. Or maybe you need a lady on your arm to accompany you to your next family reunion so your mother stops trying to hook you up with your little cousin Dave’s nerdy babysitter. You’d be surprised how accommodating women can be.

Lastly, your job is very important. I realize we’re in college, so not everyone is the CEO of a company. But that doesn’t mean you can’t spruce up your job title as long as you’re not lying. Truck driver - advanced mechanic machinery operator and manager. Waiter - senior finances handler and customer consultant. It never fails.

Lancer student-athlete spotlight: Alex Lewis



COURTESY OF LONGWOOD ATHLETICS

by Stephanie Roberts
Asst. Sports Editor
@stephroberts07

Lancer.

Lewis visited the campus one time before deciding that it was the right fit for him.

"I loved the campus and atmosphere, the small environment of campus and the classroom, it was something that wasn't too different from high school and that I could relate to easily and that was a big thing for me."

Lewis was recruited and coached his freshman year by former Longwood baseball head coach Buddy Bolding. Before his sophomore year he underwent a coaching change to the current head coach Ryan Mau, and assistants Chad Oxendine and Daniel Wood.

His freshman year, he started 40 of 49 games played and hit .250 with 20 runs scored and hit and picked up a total of 40 hits. His sophomore year, he started 38 of 47 games and hit .196 in 143 ABs with two homers, 10 doubles, 12 RBI, and scored 12 runs.

His junior year, he joined the Big South All-Conference Second Team, Big South Championship All-Tournament Selections, and was named first team all-region and all-state. During Lewis's junior year, he also set the single-season school record and finished third in the Big South with 86 hits. He finished in the top five in the Big South in average and doubles, and led

his team in hits, extra base hits, RBI, multi-hit games with 25, and multi-RBI games with 12.

"Last year against Hofstra, I hit a walk-off double, and I got to say that had to be the coolest moment for me because I had never had a walk-off hit, so it was very exciting to do that last season," said Lewis.

Lewis had the team-best 15-game hit streak, which he did twice his junior season, and he ended his season on a 15-game hit streak.

"My favorite memory on the team has to be last season as a whole, we set records in wins for a Division 1 era, and we made it to the conference tournament semi-finals," said Lewis. "We wanted to win it all but it was an achievement in itself, and the season was a great accomplishment for the program and a stepping stone in capturing our ultimate goal this year."

For his senior season this year, Lewis was named to the preseason All-Big South team by Perfect Game and also ranked the fifth best draft prospect in the conference by Perfect Game.

"There is always the dream of wanting to play professional baseball, but if that doesn't pan out I am studying business management, and I'm hoping to get a job within the next six months in that field," said Lewis.

Alex Lewis's love for baseball began when he first started playing baseball at five years old. His passion for the game continued to grow after he joined a travel team in seventh grade. This was when he began to realize he wanted to play baseball at a higher level and continue to play past high

school. He played three years on varsity before continuing his career at Longwood.

Lewis is a senior first and third baseman on the Longwood baseball team. He came to Longwood from Lake Braddock High School in Burke, VA. and has played all four of his eligible years as a

WEEKLY ROUNDUP

BASEBALL

Friday, April 14

vs. Presbyterian L 2-1

Saturday, April 15

vs. Presbyterian L 10-2

SOFTBALL

Saturday, April 8

vs. Presbyterian W 2-0

vs. Presbyterian L 2-0

Sunday, April 9

vs. Presbyterian L 4-0

LACROSSE

Saturday, April 15

vs. Winthrop L 21-7

MEN'S TENNIS

Wednesday, April 12

@ Radford W 4-3

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Saturday, April 15

vs. Charleston Southern L 6-1

JOIN THE ROTUNDA

MEETINGS IN BEDFORD 106 MONDAYS AT 6:45

Darius Thigpen: The new voice of Longwood athletics

Finishing his second year at Longwood University



KIERSTEN FREEDMAN | THE ROTUNDA

by T.J. Wengert
Sports Staff
@tjwengert

In November 2015, Darius Thigpen, 24, was hired by Longwood University to be the assistant director of athletics communications for new media. Then November 2016, he was named the official voice of the Lancers.

Thigpen's broadcast journey began at Ohio State University, doing color commentary his first two years for the student radio station, the Scarlet and Gray Sports Radio. During his junior year, he became the vice president of the radio station and advanced to the play-by-play position. By his senior year, he was the president for the Scarlet and Gray radio station and commentated every sport on air.

"Play-by-play is something that I got interested in, at college. I didn't grow up knowing what I wanted to do, other than being the next Ken Griffey Jr. and Kobe Bryant," said Thigpen.

Upon graduating from Ohio State University in 2014, Thigpen transitioned into minor league baseball. He served as the studio host of the pre-game and post-game shows, assisting the radio crew with their in-game broadcasts and writing game recaps throughout the season.

"I started in the International League, Triple-A baseball, for the Columbus Clippers and worked there for a year. Then they told me about a job at IMG because one of the guys I worked for, Scott Leo, he knew a guy at IMG and gave me a part time job," said Thigpen, describing his path to Longwood. "I was there for a year, but I wanted to get back into minor league baseball so I went to Leigh High Valley IronPigs. After working there for a year one of my bosses, John Schaeffer, who was the voice of Lancers basketball, was leaving for Leigh High Valley. He went on to hire

Scott Bacon, who then hired me."

Thigpen was hired to do the play-by-play for the Big South Network broadcasts at first. Now, he broadcasts for the WVHL Kickin' Country 92.9 FM station, as well.

In reference to Darius being hired by Longwood, his father Kevin Thigpen said, "I was extremely excited, and I think the reason I was the most excited was because he had been working a lot of part-time jobs. So when the Longwood opportunity arose, being that it was a full-time position at an established university, I thought it was absolutely outstanding, and I was extremely excited for him."

According to his family and co-workers, Darius is more than just the voice behind Longwood athletics, he is someone who has a great personality.

"He is first and foremost very passionate about sports, and always has been. When he was a kid, he would wake up in the morning and watch ESPN," said Kevin. "He also has a great sense of humor that many people may not get to see. And he is very disciplined and focused, especially when he was growing up and how he approached his schooling."

While Darius is most known for his work ethic and solid character, there is an aspect of his life usually sidelined.

Darius was born with a defect called Tetralogy of Fallot. According to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, Tetralogy of Fallot is a condition when there isn't enough blood getting to the lungs to be oxygenated, leading to oxygen-poor blood flowing through the body.

Kevin said, "He has had four open heart surgeries in his life, the most recent being when he was a senior at Ohio State."

This is a part of Darius' life that he mostly keeps to himself. Assistant Vice President of Athletics Communication Chris Cook noted he knew Darius had a heart defect but had never heard him speak about it.

Cook said, "I never hesitate to give him any task, whether it's something I know he can do or it's something that he's never done before. Because if he doesn't know how to

do it, he'll figure out how to do it."

In a way, Darius' heart defect exemplifies how he refuses to settle or give up on his dreams. He downplayed its significance, saying "It's nothing I really have to think about. I have to take a tablet every day, and I get a yearly checkup just to make sure everything is going as normal. I've had two open heart surgeries in the last 10 years and will probably have to have another at one some point in time. But, hopefully not for another 10 to 15 years from now."

Darius proudly added, "I can still go hard, just not quite as hard."

Looking at his future, Darius' father believes his son can be just as successful as any other broadcaster. "In terms of his potential, I think he could be on ESPN one day. I think that based on his knowledge, his ability, and how he can adapt to so many different sports and make it seem so natural," said Kevin.

Darius said, "I had no clue that I would be here three to five years ago. Because when I graduated from college I didn't have a job, I just had an internship in place. And all I knew was that the internship was going to be over at the end of the season. Since then, I've moved three different times in the past three years before coming to Longwood. So to say where I'll be in the next three to five years, I can't predict it."

You can listen to Darius on 92.9 FM this Tuesday, April 18, as Longwood's baseball team travels to the University of Virginia. Then tune in again on Friday, April 21, when Longwood baseball hosts Winthrop University.

"He is completely selfless, motivated, always positive and very efficient. And his preparation into broadcasts and games, they're probably a little overboard but that's just how he works," said Cook. "He is someone who you see working hard, and it makes everyone else want to work just as hard. It's even hard for me to keep up with him."