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The

# ROTUNDA

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BRANDON CHEUNG | THE ROTUNDA

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## In SGA: Elwood's Cabinet and Model UN become official organizations

by Kurt Martin | Sports Staff | @IamKurt14



Junior Class President Haleigh Pannell brings up the issue of the 'inappropriate spaces' in the stalls of the women's Ruffner Hall bathrooms.

During the second Student Government Association (SGA) meeting of the semester, Elwood's Cabinet was officially recognized as a campus organization. The food pantry offers emergency food for students at Longwood University, according to the organization's website.

Longwood Model United Nations (Model UN) was also recognized as an official campus organization. According to Ibrahim Kante, who spoke on behalf of the organization, Model UN is an organization that will look to participate in conferences and create awareness on national relations and policies.

During open forum, Junior Class President Haleigh Pannell brought up an issue that was discussed last semester regarding the space between the stall door and the stall itself in the women's bathrooms of Ruffner Hall. Pannell deemed the excess space as inappropriate and President Josh Darst said he will look into the issue.

Senior Class President David Gills expressed that Canvas should be solely for classes and academic use rather than being used for departments to send students information, such as Career Services and Fraternity and Sorority Life. Gills suggested that those departments utilize email lists instead.

During the adviser's report, Dean for Student Engagement Cheryl Steele told senate that tabling for organizations is available in the game center on the first floor of

Upchurch University Center. Per Gary Honickel, assistant director of student clubs and organizations, information will be sent out to students via Lancer Link in the upcoming weeks.

Steele also noted advertising for events will become available on the televisions in Upchurch during this semester.

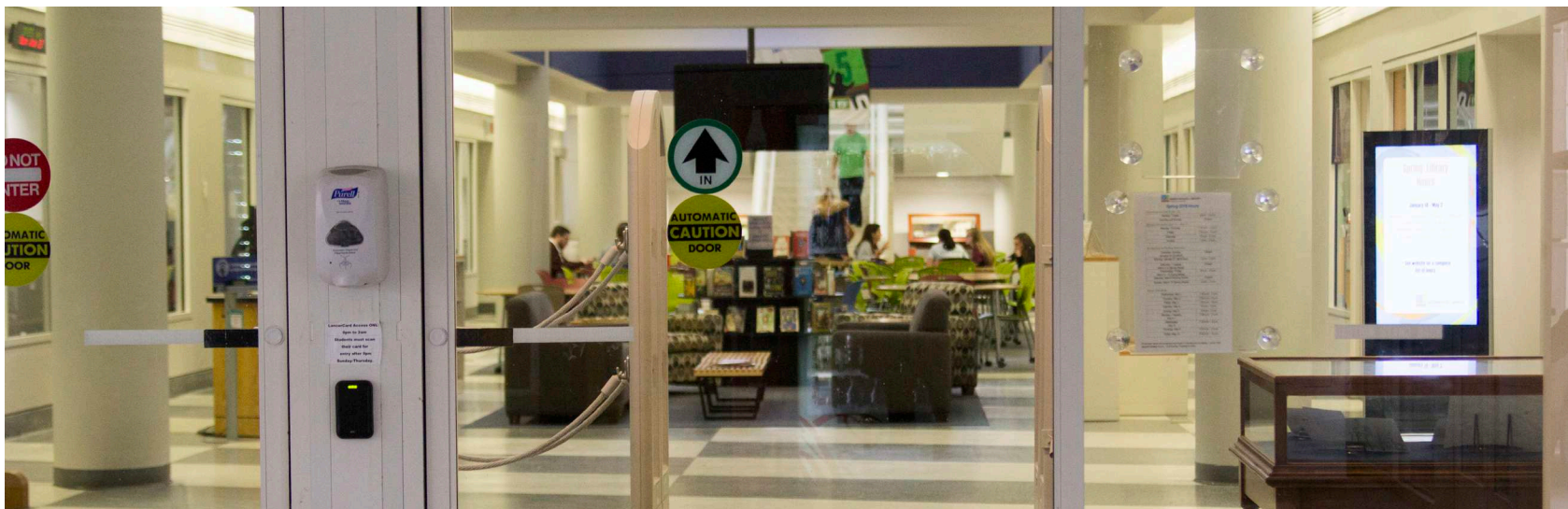
Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Tim Pierson announced 118 students participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Challenge, held on Monday Jan. 19. Per Pierson and Steele, it was the highest number of participants seen in recent years.

According to Executive Treasurer Emily Moran, budget information sessions will be held Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 14 at 3 p.m.

During Executive Senator for Senate Relations Sierra Davey's report, Davey provided an update to last week's initiative to place free pads and tampons in all female and unisex bathrooms in academic buildings on campus. Davey said an online petition is in the works and there are talks with the Office of Sustainability to find the best products for the initiative.

Mason Patrick was sworn in as webmaster while Camryn Ridpath and Matthew Roberts were sworn in as senators.

The next SGA meeting will be Jan. 29 at 3:50 p.m. in the Wilson Chamber located in Upchurch University Center.



# Longwood gets NEA grant for community program

by Jesse Plichta-Kellar | News Editor | @JesseKellar

While the library is closed, students will soon be able to rent DVDs through a new dispenser located outside of the library in the entrance way.

The National Arts Endowment (NEA) has given Greenwood Library a grant for a community reading program, per Brent Roberts, dean of the Greenwood Library.

“The NEA sponsors (these), what they call Big Read grants and what it does is a community reading event,” said Roberts. “It brings people together to discuss important issues and questions that surround the content of the book and which are relevant to all the people involved.”

Per Roberts, “Burning Bright” by Ron Rash was selected from the NEA list of approved books.

“It is a collection of short stories that explore the history, culture, music, poetry of the Appalachia and we're very excited about a whole series of events that will take place primarily in the month of April,” Roberts said.

The grant will provide 650 copies of the book, according to Jennifer Beach, research and instructional services librarian and head of Longwood's Big Read committee. To maximize the number of people who can read the book, ten “read and release boxes” are being created as well.

“There will be one on campus, one at Hampden-Sydney (College), one at the public libraries and at different businesses around the community. People can take a book and if they don't want to keep it, which they can, they can return it and someone else can pick it up and read it,” said Beach.

The events will be thematically related to the book and in partnership with other community organizations. Longwood is partnering with the Central Virginia Regional Public Library, Hampden-Sydney College, Prince Edward County Public Schools and other

local schools, according to Beach.

“The goal for this type of programming or this type of grant is to actually have programming throughout the community,” said Beach.

Beach said programming will include book discussions, an author visit, movie screenings, a play and a writing event.

The first event will be on April 6 at the Farmville Community Marketplace and will have book giveaways, crafts and food trucks. Students can contact the library if they are interested in volunteering with the Big Read.

The library has additional programming planned for the semester outside the Big Read, per Roberts.

Hamiltunes and the Long Night Against Procrastination are both returning events from last semester as well as game nights and Valentine's Day “Love your library” programming.

Per Roberts, the library is also getting a DVD dispenser for students to use when the

library is closed.

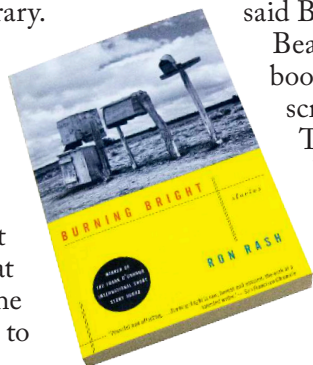
“Our DVD collection is one of the most popular things in all of Greenwood Library and people are always coming through and checking out DVDs,” Roberts said. “We are purchasing a Redbox-style dispenser to go into the space between the library and the Comma convenience store so that students can come in there any time of the day or night whenever they want.”

According to Roberts, the library has also gained access to Flipster, an app that students can use through the library to check out popular magazines with their Longwood credentials.

The library has also had some minor physical changes, per Roberts. Rooms 147A, 147B, and 148 are being combined into one large meeting space with dividers. Included in the room will be larger screens and controls allowing for broadcasting.

Per Roberts, the library is also updating the furniture in those rooms and installing collaborative learning technologies.

Follow The Rotunda for more updates.



“Burning Bright” by Ron Rash was selected as the book for the Big Read, a community reading event sponsored by the National Arts Endowment (NEA).



Some of the changes made to the Greenwood Library includes new furniture in some of the rooms and new trash cans and recycling bins.

TAYLOR O'BERRY | THE ROTUNDA

# FARMVILLE FAMILY HISTORY SHAPES JOURNALIST

Sydney Trent aims to impact younger audience

by Rachael Poole | Opinions Editor | @rapoole17

BRANDON CHEUNG | THE ROTUNDA



Social Issues Editor at The Washington Post Sydney Trent, shares stories of her ancestors and her ties to Prince Edward County.

Hoping to spark courage within the audience, Sydney Trent spoke in Jarman Hall on Tuesday, Jan. 22 in front of about 130 people about her experiences growing up and now as a journalist.

Trent is the Senior Editor of Social Issues at the Washington Post and is also the goddaughter of Barbara Johns and granddaughter of Reverend Vernon Johns, the pastor who preceded Martin Luther King Jr. at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, according to Longwood's website.

Dr. Jes Simmons, assistant director of citizen leadership and social justice, organized the event with the Office of Citizen Leadership and Social Justice.

Jumping at the chance to speak at Longwood, Trent started off her speech with how much time and editing went into preparing for the event with over 13 pages of material.

One of her first topics was how courage is the source in conquering fear. She discussed how the fear she felt in preparing this speech was minimal in comparison to the fear needed to accomplish what Barbara Johns did in Farmville almost 68 years ago.

"This (Farmville) is a place that has played a fundamental role in civil rights progress," said Longwood President W. Taylor Reveley IV in regard to Barbara Johns' protest.

Trent was very close to her godmother in that Johns would tell her stories about her time at the Robert Russa Moton High School in Prince Edward County.

Johns told Trent the story about how she led her classmates in a strike to protest the racist, substandard conditions at the high school on April 23, 1951. The protest came after Johns decided she had enough of the inadequacies such as bad equipment, lack of laboratories

and horrible facilities, according to the Robert Russa Moton Museum's website.

Her ideals caught the attention and support of NAACP lawyers, who filed a suit at the federal courthouse in Richmond, Va. The case, *Davis v. Prince Edward*, was one of the five cases that were reviewed by the Supreme Court for the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education* that declared segregation unconstitutional.

Emphasizing Barbara Johns' age during her protest, Trent wanted the younger audience to be courageous in their actions as history shows the powerfulness her decision lead to an even more powerful movement.

"Young people often have more power to move the world than they even understand," said Trent.

Trent went on to speak about Johns' recollection of the sermons told by her uncle and Trent's grandfather, Reverend Johns and how she often taught the same lessons to Trent growing up.

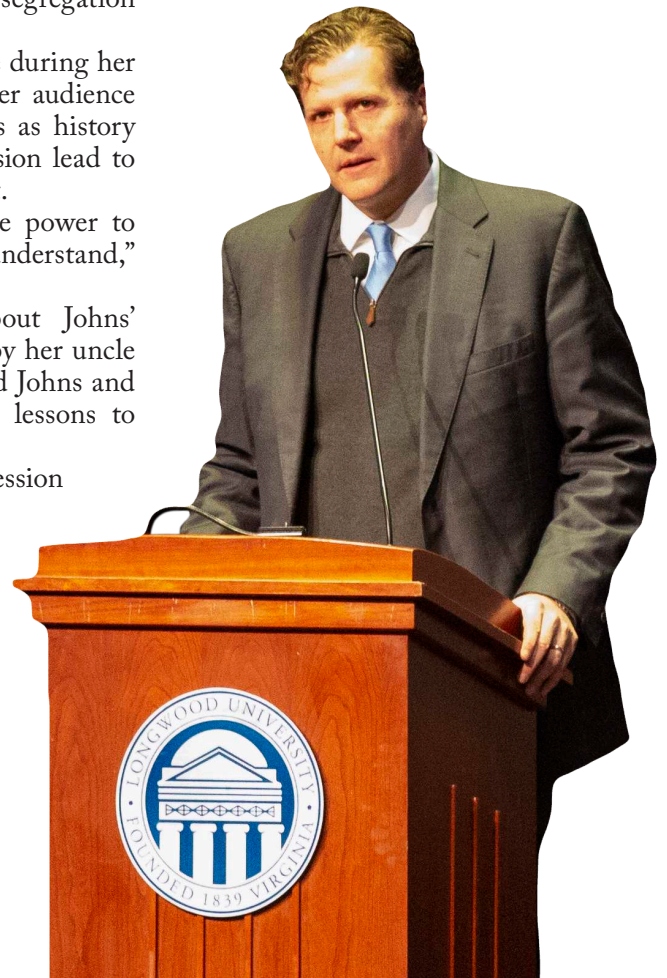
"I may well have chosen my profession as a journalist because of that spiritual and genetic connection to my grandfather given his independent and truth telling nature and love of words and wide ranging curiosity," said Trent.

In her role as a journalist, Trent talked a lot about hate on the national scale and how learning from her elders influences how she does her job daily.

As of late 2016, Trent brought in a picture of her grandfather to place on her desk at work for a constant reminder to be brave "during more difficult times".

"As a journalist, I feel free to talk about hate because hate is not a partisan issue," said Trent.

Trent concluded with questions from the audience where Brittany Morgan asked Trent what young people can do to make a change in which Trent said developing strong relationships is crucial.



President Reveley giving an opening statement before the start of the lecture.



# Iconic Poet "iCon" Lets LU Voices Be Heard

by KC McAllister | Photo Staff | @longwoodrotunda

Poet Sha'Condria "iCon", a New Orleans native recites her poems and songs on the Upchurch University Center first floor lounge stage.



Longwood's Matthew Howard goes up to the stage to perform a couple of poems.



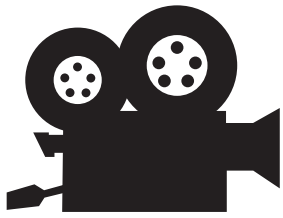
iCon shares her poem "To All the Little Black Girls With Big Names" to show the importance of her name but to all the Black girls who have difficult names.



Tyler Hall performs his poem about an ex-girlfriend called "I'm Sorry."



Senior Nadia Lee from Prince Edward County High School came to recite her poem "They Can't Hear Me."



# THE REEL LIFE

Movie reviews by Jacob DiLandro | A&E Editor | @spongejay1



Courtesy of 20th Century Fox, Big Talk Productions, and Working Title Films.

# THE KID WHO WOULD BE KING

Joe Cornish has made a name for himself fairly recently, working on movies just as bizarre as “The Kid Who Would Be King.” From writing “Ant-Man” and the 2011 “Tintin” film, to directing the sci-fi action comedy “Attack the Block,” each of his previous works have at least a little bit of charm and whimsy. Thankfully, that charm, whimsy, and a bit of action are on full display in “The Kid Who Would Be King.”

An update of the classic King Arthur story, “King” focuses on bringing the myth’s traits into the 21st century in some really clever ways. Cornish doesn’t sacrifice the magic inherent in the tale, in particular with the reinvention of Merlin the Wizard to the Knights of the Round Table.

It also helps that his cast are just as invested in the tale that they’re telling. Patrick Stewart (“X-Men,” “Star Trek: The Next Generation”) and Rebecca Ferguson (“The Greatest Showman,” “Mission Impossible: Fallout”) make up the major adult roles, but other than that, the film focuses on a pretty

talented cast of child actors.

Louis Ashbourne Serkis, Tom Taylor, Angus Imrie, Dean Chaumoo and Rhianna Doris manage to impressively hold their own against the other more seasoned actors and the various CGI creatures. Imrie, in particular, plays the teen version of the wizard Merlin, and ends up as the film’s unquestionable standout.

It’s obvious the film can’t match the budget of Marvel and other Hollywood films in regard to its action-heavy sequences, but Cornish makes great choices with his crew manage to accomplish on their smaller scale. While most of the sequences go for CGI, there is still an impressive number of physical sets and practical effects, leading to a sense of realism that helps to engross audiences even further, in addition to the film’s ample energy.

“King” clearly isn’t a film trying to win an Oscar but it’s not an issue here. Rather, there’s a

sense of warmth and energy present in every frame that can only be compared to the adventure films of the 80s such as “E.T.” and “The Goonies.”

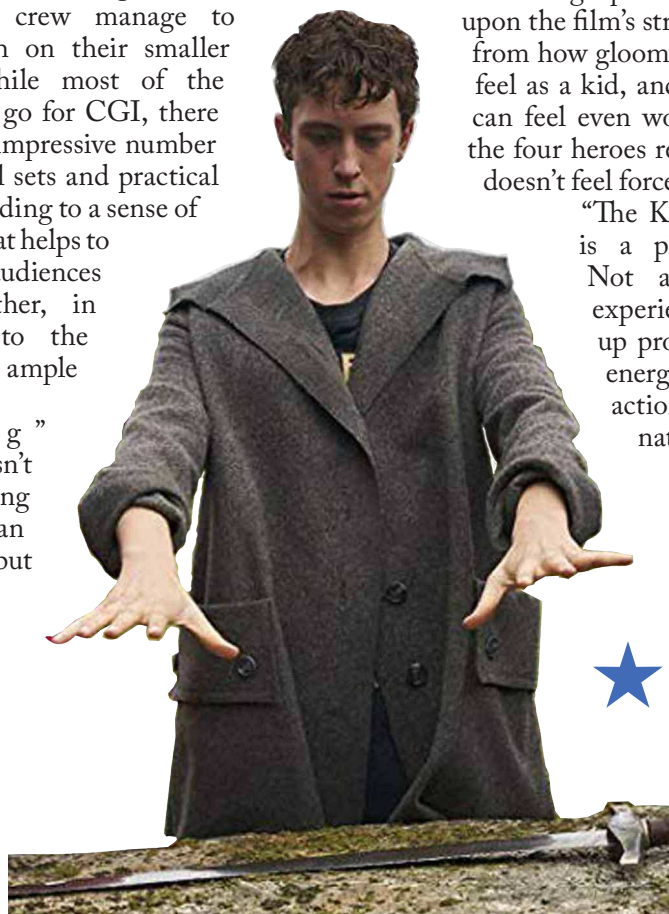
It’s a movie that knows what it is and isn’t afraid to embrace its somewhat cheesy tone, its adventure story roots or its clichés. But it also knows just how to deliver the right gag to get a well-deserved laugh or the right line to earn a heartstring tug.

This, coupled with the themes of identity and finding a place in the world, further build upon the film’s strengths. It doesn’t shy away from how gloomy the world can sometimes feel as a kid, and how in today’s society, it can feel even worse. When Merlin makes the four heroes recite an oath of chivalry, it doesn’t feel forced; it feels pure and sincere.

“The Kid Who Would Be King” is a pleasant January surprise. Not a jaw-dropping must-see experience, but instead it ends up providing more than enough energy, charm and well-acted action to overcome its cliched nature. It’s not perfect, but it has wit and whimsy as sharp as Excalibur and just as polished.



4/5



Courtesy of Jackets Creator

Courtesy of 20th Century Fox, Big Talk Productions, and Working Title Films.

# WBB: Searching for the correct formula

## Lancers look for correct adjustments to find win column

by Kurt Martin | Sports Staff | @IAmKurt14

In a season which currently sees the Longwood women's basketball at a record of 1-16 (0-7 Big South), first-year Head Coach Rebecca Tillett is still experimenting to find the solidified lineup to bring the Lancers success.

The team has used a total of eight different starting lineups in their first 17 games, with the focus being starting off games on a better foot. The team has been outscored 349-232 in the first quarter of contests this season.

"We're fine with that until we can find a combination. Something that's really unique this year, that was concerning, was that we can't get a really big separation between two groups in practice," said Tillett. "Generally on your team, if you put your starters together they're going to have a little bit of rhythm and success together, and we haven't been able to

find that one group that can really separate from one another."

In the preseason, Tillett said she wanted to institute a culture of toughness and unselfishness in the team. So far, the team isn't currently meeting the standards in those areas, according to Tillett.

"For your culture to be tough and to be unselfish, those are big asks. I think we are making progress but we are not as far as where I

would like to be right now," said Tillett.

A few bright spots for the Lancers have come in the form of junior forward Dayna Rouse and freshman forward Akila Smith.

Rouse, a native of Pittsburgh, Pa. currently leads the team in scoring at just over 13 points-per-game coupled with a field goal percentage of 59 percent, and is second in the Big South Conference.

"I think (Rouse's) offensive consistency has been steady for us the entire season. We are really happy with any shot she takes and, in fact, I would like her to take a few more since she shoots such a high percentage," said Tillett. "She is growing in her leadership and we are trying to help her find her voice because she has some really good ideas and I want her to share them with the team."

Smith, standing at 5-foot-11-inches tall, is currently second on the team in blocks with 13 and was the most recent player to enter the starting lineup for the Lancers.

Tillett is very impressed with the progression Smith has shown along with her contributions in her short time of being a member of the squad.

"When Akila got here she had a lot of work to do and she knew that and she did it, in the classroom and on the court," said Tillett. "She has put in more time than any other player on our team outside of practice hours by her choice. Because of that, she has worked her way



CARRIE BAILEY | THE ROTUNDA

Senior guard Ciarah Bennett drives around teammate Kate Spradlin in a recent practice.



Freshman Akila Smith sets to take a pull-up jump shot. Smith has made an impact on the defensive end, tallying 13 blocks in 11 games played.

into the lineup and she's contributing to our team."

Despite the early struggles of the season to date, senior guard Ciarah Bennett feels the team is better as a unit this season over years past.

"We are more communicative than before," said Bennett. "We didn't really talk to each other outside of basketball (in years past) but we do now. We care for each other on and off the court."

Tillett said she is glad as she looks back at her previous head coaching experience at the high school level, as it would be tougher if she didn't have the experience.

"I am learning every day and that's who I am. I love to be inspired to learn and our team is doing that for me and I hope me and the staff are doing that for them," said Tillett. "I think our team has a generally positive approach to how we respond."

Looking forward to the rest of the season, Tillett is encouraged by the team's recent ability to battle back from deficits, an action the team struggled with in the beginning of the season.

"If someone takes a 13-point lead on us now, I'm not as concerned as I was earlier in the season because I think our women have it in them now to fight back, but I want them to fight back and win," said Tillett.

The team will look to break its 14 game losing streak as it returns to Willett Hall on Jan. 29 to take on Campbell University, starting a three game home-stand.





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