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The

# ROTUNDA



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# STRIVING FOR SUCCESS

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BRANDON CHEUNG | THE ROTUNDA



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## In SGA: Deferred recruitment resolution passed

by Rachael Poole | Editor-in-Chief | @rapoole17

In this week's Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, there was another discussion about dissolving deferred recruitment in fraternities and sororities within the College Panhellenic Council (CPC) and the Interfraternity Council (IFC).

Webmaster Mason Patrick moved to amend various wordings in different sections of the resolution, while Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) Representative Jessica Savas moved to put all of the crucial data at the bottom of the resolution within its own section. Both motions were passed.

President Josh Darst reminded senate to focus on the "actual message" of the resolution instead of the grammar in it. Darst added the content is more important to Faculty Senate than the grammatical uses.

Senator Jalyn Jones said she believes it is hard for SGA to represent the entire student body through the proposed resolution because there are a lot of members of senate who are part of Greek life, making it "bias".

Junior Class President Haleigh Pannell responded by saying no students should be "punished" just because they are in Greek life.

Courtney White, president of Sports Club Council, clarified what Jones meant by saying her statement was a reminder to consider all of the student body and not just the Greek organizations SGA members may also be a part of.

In the gallery, President of IFC and Treasurer of Theta Chi Josh Hutchinson told SGA the decision will be delayed to the 2020-21 academic year after talking with Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Tim Pierson and Longwood University President W. Taylor Reveley IV.

Hutchinson added faculty have been interested in the resolution, so the decision to delay it is needed to "keep the conversation going".

After a move to approve the resolution, a motion passed with 19 votes for the resolution, 11 votes against it and five abstentions. The five abstentions went to the majority vote.

During open forum, Senator Garrett Reese brought up a traffic issue in the parking lot between Upchurch University Center and Stevens Hall, saying there is an issue with too many cars trying to get in and out at the same time.

Senator Joseph Hyman discussed concerns surrounding several cases of Aramark staff being reprimanded by managers in front of tours. He said that gives Longwood a "bad image" to prospective students.

Senator Camryn Ridpath said she would bring up the concerns at the next Dining Committee meeting.

Ridpath also said there have been complaints of the doors being excessively heavy in academic buildings such as Ruffner Hall. She added it is hard for people with disabilities to open these doors.

Vice President Catherine Swinsky said last semester she looked into the issue at the Longwood Landings and reported it is a safety feature.

Darst suggested Ridpath go to the Office of Disability Resources on the issue.

Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) was approved to be a new student organization on campus.

The next SGA meeting will be Tuesday, April 2 at 3:45 p.m. in the Wilson Chamber located in Upchurch University Center.



The Student Government Association (SGA) votes to eliminate deferred recruitment in fraternities and sororities within the College Panhellenic Council (CPC) and the Interfraternity Council (IFC).

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# Moran and Pannell debate for SGA President

Internship prices, student representation and diversity inclusion discussed

by Rachael Poole | Editor-in-Chief | @rapoole17



Emily Moran, a junior political science and economics double major with concentrations in pre-law and international relations with a minor in history, has been on SGA since her freshman year and currently holds the title of Executive Treasurer where she oversees a budget of \$800,000.



EVA WITTKOSKI | THE ROTUNDA

Haleigh Pannell, a psychology major with a minor in neurostudies, wants to better the relationships between underrepresented students on campus and the Longwood University Police Department (LUPD).

Before the Student Government Association (SGA) polls opened for the 2019-20 academic year on March 26, presidential candidates Emily Moran and Haleigh Pannell debated in front of about 100 people. The debate was moderated by Senior Class President David Gills.

Both Moran and Pannell are rising seniors and had similar platforms regarding student representation and campus outreach.

Moran, a political science and economics double major with concentrations in pre-law and international relations and a minor in history, has been a part of SGA since her freshman year. Moran stepped into the Executive Historian position while being Freshman Class Representative and was reelected for the historian position her sophomore year and currently sits as Executive Treasurer of SGA.

“Through my involvement with these organizations and others as well as the positions I hold and have held, I know that I have the communication skill set, leadership abilities and drive to be the president of the Longwood student body,” Moran said in her opening statement. “I will represent all of my peers to the best of my abilities.”

Pannell, a psychology major with a minor in neurostudies, was appointed to SGA as a senator in February 2018 and became Junior Class President in April of that year. With her position, she has facilitated Town Hall discussions such as the Campus Safety

Town Hall in light of student concerns with Longwood University Communications and Longwood University Police Department (LUPD).

Per Pannell, during her time at Longwood, she has been a part of 17 different organizations, including Promise 16, Mortar Board and the Office of Citizen Leadership and Social Justice.

“I have used my time to listen, advocate, empower and support the needs of every student because I believe every student deserves to be fought for,” said Pannell in her opening statement.

Both Pannell and Moran agreed the biggest issues on campus currently are campus safety and diversity inclusion, but the candidates have different approaches on how to solve these issues.

Moran said there is a “disconnect” between students and administration and if that were fixed, it would be a lot easier for students’ concerns to be heard, while Pannell suggested LUPD meet with underrepresented groups on campus each semester to learn about their concerns and fears.

When it comes to issues with academic affairs, Pannell expressed getting rid of Longwood Seminar (LSEM), a program for first-year students to learn about campus, was an issue that took away support for freshmen and first-year students.

Moran also said taking away LSEM has “hurt the student body as of right now” but

expressed that the university and students must give the new system “more time” because there is an adjustment period.

Pannell added she would like to see a first generation student representative added to SGA to help first generation students with the college transition process.

Moran also said she wants to address the prices students must pay for internships.

“For many of us who do our internships over the summer, we are paying three to four grand to check in with a professor once a week via email, and they don’t even read it - they just give you an ‘A’ for submitting it,” said Moran.

In her closing statement, Pannell said she would continue to work for every student.

“I just want to be given the opportunity to give this campus the leadership it deserves to become the epitome of an inclusive college environment and I’m committed to put every one of you first,” said Pannell.

Moran reiterated her main goals: to work on the price of internships for students, to implement a system for all senators to be able to pursue projects and to have a 24-hour room with a computer and printer open to students who may need it.

“I know that Longwood can be great and I think we just need to invest that time, and all of us need to invest that time and it not just be the same people over and over. It needs to be all of us,” said Moran.

The polls for SGA elections are open until Tuesday, April 2 at 11:59 p.m.





Vivian Ordonez, a member of Zeta Chi Alpha, signs the banner made for the event to advocate for suicide awareness.



Rachel Kuney thanked all the organizations and people who came out for advocating for suicide prevention.

# Out of the Darkness Walk 2019

by Jacob Puterko | Assistant Photo Editor | @JPuterko



Casper Sturm opens up to the crowd about how much it means to him that every one is there supporting the cause.

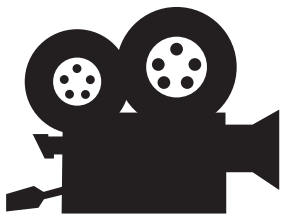


The walk took place on March 30 beginning on Brock Commons to raise awareness for suicide prevention.



All participants started the walk by the Joan of Arc statue on Brock Commons and made their way around campus showing their drive to spread the message about suicide prevention.

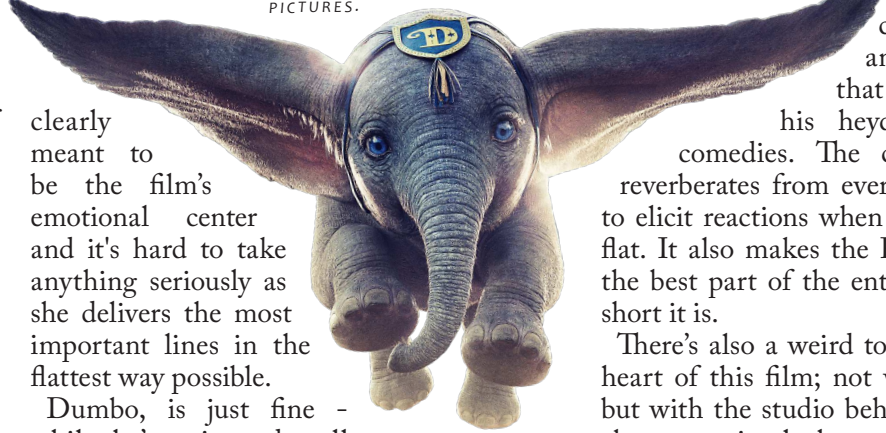




# THE REEL LIFE

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

PHOTO COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY PICTURES, TIM BURTON PRODUCTIONS, INFINITE DETECTIVE PRODUCTIONS, SECRET MACHINE ENTERTAINMENT, AND WALT DISNEY STUDIOS MOTION PICTURES.



**D**umbo is a character beloved for how unloved he was while Tim Burton is a director who has built a career on giving the spotlight to exactly these kinds of characters. So why shouldn't the two of them meet in the middle for the latest of Disney's live-action remakes?

Burton intelligently brings some of his past colleagues to this film: Eva Green ("Penny Dreadful," "Miss Peregrine"), Michael Keaton ("Birdman," "Batman") and Danny DeVito ("Batman Returns," "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia"), as well as frequent musical collaborator Danny Elfman ("Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," "Beetlejuice").

Green does a serviceable job here, as does DeVito. Both are clearly doing the best with a shaky screenplay as their characters don't really have an effect on the overall plot. DeVito's character especially feels like he's merely forgotten about in the latter half of the film. Keaton, meanwhile, walks the line between acting and chewing the scenery to pieces but oddly enough it makes him the film's most interesting character.

Keaton's character is also more interesting than the center family: Colin Farrell ("In Bruges," "Horrible Bosses") is, like the others, doing the best he can. It's commendable and he does a decent job turning his father figure of Holt Farrier into the most emotionally resonating character in the film. However, his children are an entirely different matter.

Finley Hobbins is perfectly mediocre as Holt's young son, Joe. He wants to have an act, does handstands and generally isn't annoying. However, Holt's daughter Milly, played by Nico Parker, is an absolute disaster.

Not only does the movie seem determined to dumb her down into a one-dimensional STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) stand-in, but Parker turns out as one of the worst performances of the year. She consistently sounds flat, moving from having no emotion whatsoever to having a slightly higher inflection. It's maddening as she is

clearly meant to be the film's emotional center and it's hard to take anything seriously as she delivers the most important lines in the flattest way possible.

Dumbo, is just fine - while he's animated well, that's all that can be said about him. He's unassuming and cute but fails to make a real impact. His ridiculing doesn't really register since the people around him, the circus folk, immediately care for him - his outcast nature doesn't land because he never feels like an outcast.

Because Dumbo never feels like an outcast, the central emotional crux of this story is gone. What else does Dumbo have if it isn't an outcast story? Nothing.

What we're left with is a movie with decent actors and some stellar visuals.

If there is one reason to see Dumbo, it's for the visuals. While most are CGI, it makes the actual sets like the latter half's main location, DreamLand, really pop. When Dumbo does fly it feels spectacular, even for a brief moment, like something out of a storybook. It's Burton's distinct visual style at its best, with deep colors conflicting with dark imagery to evoke some real menace. The CGI that does exist though, is painfully obvious. While Dumbo and his mother are well done, every other animal and item looks like cheap plastic. It's as if 99 percent of the budget was given to Dumbo and the remaining one percent was spread out to everything else.

Along with the visuals, the music featured in the film is another great aspect. Elfman has a s

created a confident and bizarre score that feels ripped from his heyday of 90s horror-comedies. The cheeky menace that reverberates from every musical note helps to elicit reactions when the film's script falls flat. It also makes the Pink Elephants scene the best part of the entire film, despite how short it is.

There's also a weird tonal disconnect at the heart of this film; not within the film itself but with the studio behind it. Here is a film about an animal who wants to be set free from its captivity in an amusement park, trapped by a charismatic man with a glowing smile who constantly talks about making "dreams come true".

You'd be forgiven if you only saw the last hour of the film and thought it was a parody of all of Disney's ideals. But, because it's a legitimate Disney film, it makes it hard to take seriously. The film ends with messages about how no animal should be caged for human amusement which made it hard not to think of Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park in Orlando, Florida.

Granted, Disney is not the worst company to have animals in theme parks, but that background knowledge makes everything feel disingenuous. It doesn't go far enough in its Disney parallels or fun-poking to be considered self-parody either. It feels like being lectured by a teacher about not smoking cigarettes, to then be sold a vape by them later that day. Sure, it isn't as bad, but it isn't great either.

All of this, in addition to an amazingly rushed third act, take the air out of "Dumbo's" wings. While the film has some decent actors and a distinct visual and musical flair, none of that can save a movie when it lacks heart and soul. When Dumbo flies and the film talks about imagination, it only cements how creative and emotionally bankrupt it is. Sure, the elephant can fly, but it would be even better if he had a soul whilst doing it.

★★ 1.5/5

Disney

DUMBO







# There is a lack of diversity in Greek Life

by Davina Applewhite | Opinions Staff | @longwoodrotunda

*Editor's Note: The opinions expressed in this commentary are solely those of the author.*

Last week, I was aimlessly scrolling through my phone with my friend across the room when she pointed something out to me that I'd only ever thought about internally.

Without peeling her eyes from her phone screen she asked, "Why is Caleb\* the only non-white guy in his frat?"

I looked up at her with a slight frown and went to go look for myself.

She had a point: Caleb was the only non-white guy in his fraternity and, though his inclusion was something that should be celebrated, it also made me think about the lack of diversity in not only fraternities but also sororities.

Attending college is a way for young adults to discover themselves by exploring their interests, building their skills and making new, life-long friends. A way that many aim to do this is by joining clubs, sports and other organizations like fraternities and sororities.

These organizations should be a welcoming place where students of any background, religion, sexuality, ethnicity or race can thrive and feel accepted. More often than not, they are.

However, unlike clubs where one is able to join based on similar interests, or sports where one's admission is based on their skill and merit, a person's admittance into Greek Life is left entirely up to the opinion of those who are already members.

Looking closer at sororities and fraternities across the country, it's no secret a lot of them are homogeneous, consisting of predominantly white individuals.

This makes some wonder if there is a sort of subconscious bias for these members to pick potential new members who mirror their own appearance.

Lawrence Ross, author of "Blackballed: The Black and White Politics of Race on America's Campuses", gives a possible reason as to why this is so.

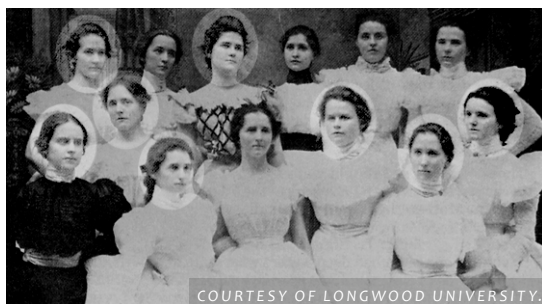
According to Ross, "Greek organizations resisted class and race diversity. Frats were a way for white upper-class men to separate themselves from an increasingly diverse student population."

Now, in 2019, we are still seeing little diversity being integrated into sororities and fraternities.

Seven years ago, Crystal Stallworth attended sorority rush at the University of Alabama.

According to Marie Claire, Stallworth, who is biracial and mixed with black, was an over-qualified candidate. However, when the time came for Stallworth to find her home away from home, she was only asked to return to one of the sorority houses.

Other girls who had a similar work ethic to Stallworth's, but were white, were in high demand.



**The founders of Tri Sigma were all alike in appearance due to the sign of the times and the lack of diversity or integration in colleges and universities in the 1800s.**

As the school year went on, Stallworth realized the reason she was dismissed by so many of the sororities was due to her race.

"That was the point I realized, whoa, people still do see race here," she said in her interview.

Of course there are nation-wide sororities and fraternities that are, in fact, the opposite. Greek life organizations like Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., predominantly black organizations, were founded in 1908 and 1906 respectively due to this lack of inclusion.

Even with minority sororities and fraternities present on campus, it is still possible for these members to face exclusion or discrimination from other predominantly white Greek Life organizations.

A member of Longwood's Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Haleigh Pannell still faces discrimination for being a part of an all-black sorority.

"I often hear that AKA isn't a 'normal' sorority and that hurts my feelings immensely.

It (makes) me feel like the sorority I am honored to be a part of, isn't considered on the same level as others." said Pannell.

However, despite facing this negativity, Pannell is still proud to be a member of AKA, stating that if she had been a member of a predominantly white sorority, she would struggle more with self-acceptance and "things like (her) natural hair."

Though, students like Pannell are able to find a home in Greek life where they can thrive, what we must keep in mind is this problem is more than just a black and white issue.

What about Asian-Americans or Latinx individuals who would also like to fit into a sorority or fraternity, but are dismissed based on differing looks?

At Longwood University there were 5,074 enrolled students, according to a 2017-2018 study from College Tuition Compare. Of those students, 3,764 were white, 522 were Black, 253 were Hispanic, 65 were Asian and seven were Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.

This means that roughly 847 students have the potential to join a sorority or fraternity but may also face discrimination because they do not have a similar likeness to those already involved.

This is not to say every sorority and fraternity discriminate and not every sorority and fraternity is completely homogeneous. In fact, there are some very inclusive Greek Life organizations that aim to make everyone feel welcomed.

However, what more sororities and fraternities need to start doing is being more aware of their implicit bias and working to integrate more people of color and people of different backgrounds into their organizations.

Pannell says she thinks a form of blind application would be helpful in implementing more diversity into sororities and fraternities.

"Just looking (to see) if that person meets the requirements of a sorority should be what the organization should uphold," said Pannell.

Not only would this benefit sororities and fraternities by getting to know someone who they'd otherwise not talk to, but it also gives every Greek Life organization across the nation the boost they need to start being more inclusive.

(\*Name has been changed for privacy.)



# Powell makes offensive leap midway through sophomore year

Leah Powell has currently improved her batting average by 85 points compared to last season

by Nick Lewis | Sports Staff | @NickLewis\_315



BRANDON CHEUNG | THE ROTUNDA

Powell looks to get the Lancer's offense going batting lead off.

Sophomore second baseman Leah Powell had a less than ideal freshman season, batting only .189. Despite the average, Powell showed glimpses of production at the plate, finishing the year with a .308 on-base percentage.

Halfway through her second season, her batting average is currently up to .274, coupled with an on-base percentage of .338 as of March 31.

Head coach Kathy Riley credits Powell's improvement this season to more confidence at the plate.

"You can really tell primarily because if she takes a swing at a pitch she doesn't like, she comes right back in and is ready for the next one. Whereas last year, I think she started thinking too much and not having confidence that she was ready to get a hit," said Riley.

Powell said seeing live pitching during practice is one of the many reasons she's improved this season.

"We worked a lot on having our pitchers pitch us live at-bats so I think seeing the ball more out of the pitcher's hand has helped me the most," said Powell.

According to Powell, Riley has focused more on live pitching during practice this year instead of working on mechanics, which was a focus last season.

"When I break the game down we start thinking too much and we think about



what we need to do instead of reacting to the ball," said Riley.

Riley said there's always an experiment on percentage of live and mechanical work with each group of players.

Halfway through her sophomore season, Powell said there is still room for improvement in her game.

"Mentally just staying in the game the entire time and staying focused," said Powell.

After making the switch from the outfield to second bases this season, Riley said as Powell matures in her knowledge of the game, she will continue to get better along with recognizing game situations.

As only a second-year player, Powell tries to model her game after senior catcher Kaylynn 'Bug' Batten.

"She's an amazing player, great friend, she always produces at the plate, was ranked the 14th hardest out in the nation and I hope to soon work to that," said Powell.

From playing with Batten, Powell has learned to stay calm at the plate and hit her strengths, two things Batten does well.

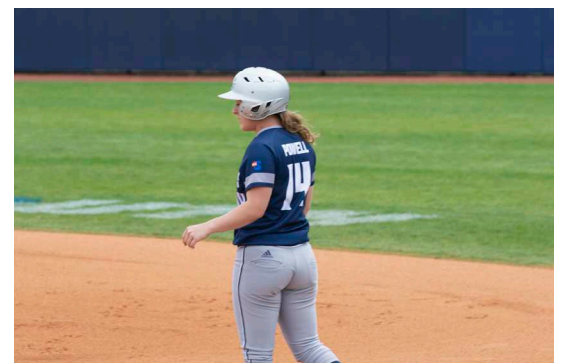
Riley said if Powell can make another significant jump in her game like she did from last season to this season, then it's possible to get to the level that Batten plays at.

"It's a great goal for her to aspire to attain so she has made a lot of progress there this year," said Riley.

Powell said her seasons successes have come in result of her friends and teammates.

"They help me have a good time, we always have a great time together and it helps me stay relaxed and that I can do it," said Powell.

Powell readies herself to re-enter the field in between innings.



(Top) Leah Powell works to her left to make a play at first to get the out at first. (Middle) Powell takes the outside pitch the other way, going 1-4 in Sunday's game. (Bottom) After receiving a sign from head coach Kathy Riley, Powell looks to swipe a bag for the Lancers.

**.189**  
freshman season  
batting average



**.274**  
current season  
batting average





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