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The

ROTUNDA

Cramming for finals since 1920



STAYING AT THE TOP

A&E PAGE 3

A universe comes to a celebratory end

SPORTS PAGE 7

Baseball looks to make final push before BSC tourney

EDITORIALS PAGES 9-11

Seniors reflect on their time in *The Rotunda*

APRIL 29, 2019
VOL. 97, ISSUE 24
CARRIE BAILEY | THE ROTUNDA

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A message from the EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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

For the last *Rotunda* edition of the 2018-19 year and as campus gets ready for finals week and graduation, I found it fitting to write my first "Letter from the Editor" as the new Editor-in-Chief.

On behalf of *The Rotunda*, I would like to give a special spotlight to our seniors. In this edition, we've extended the length of the magazine to make sure each of our graduating seniors have one more opportunity to put their name on our publication before they graduate.

Our seniors have been a driving force for this organization in the time they've been here and deserve the utmost recognition for their hard work. Being a part of a news organization is no simple task - a lot of late nights and care go into it.

This year, we are sending off seven of the best: Christine Rindfleisch, former editor-in-chief; Erin Eaton, former managing editor; Nicole Del Rosario, former *Rotunda Studios* executive producer; Eva Wittkoski, former assistant photo editor; Alaina Jacques, *Rotunda Studios* staff; Nick Lewis, sports staff; and Bella Corbo, copy staff.

Each of these seniors embody what *The Rotunda* sets out to do every single day: to seek truth as the voice of Longwood's campus. I think I speak for the entire staff when I say they will be missed, but we are so excited to see what's in store for them next.

To the rest of Longwood's seniors: congratulations. You are about to embark on a wonderful journey in in your field and find success in what makes you happy. You are about to take your last set of final exams as undergraduates of Longwood, and you should be proud of yourselves.

Your hard work has not gone unnoticed - believe me when I say that.

Longwood students, faculty and staff play a prominent role in *The Rotunda's* success; without all of you, *The Rotunda* would not be what it is. We will continue to strive for the best and we aim to take you all with us on that journey.

SFC REPORT: Senior Class Council requests funds

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

Senior Class Council \$3,000

- The funds would be used for Senior Brunch on May 15 that was originally supposed to be funded through Aramark Catering Services.
- SFC approved the allocation.

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THE REEL LIFE

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

Part of the journey is the end: this line quoted by virtually every piece of “Endgame” marketing material is undoubtedly true. Whether it went on for ten years or a hundred years, the Marvel Cinematic Universe’s (MCU) crescendoing storyline would eventually come to its conclusion: “Endgame.”

While the MCU will go on with smaller storylines beyond this, virtually everything about “Endgame” is laser guided to deliver the most satisfying conclusion to the storylines that have entangled these films for the last ten years. It does so with broad gusto and unexpected twists that may find a few scratching their heads.

This is not to say they’re confusing; despite its massive three-hour run-time, “Endgame” actually feels quite brisk and avoids most of the pacing issues featured in other superhero blockbusters. Rather, “Endgame” spends a lot of its time highlighting the impacts these events, large and small, have had on the universe and characters that inhabit it.

It is, in the truest sense of the word, a celebration of what Jon Favreau and Kevin Feige started ten years ago and what it has evolved into: a group of remarkable people coming together with broad humor and broad swings to try and make the world a better place.

However, given the ending of “Infinity War,” directors Anthony and Joe Russo take an opportunity to play with expectations. Not just in the sense of actual plot, but in the character’s motivations and their smaller moments.

What this has allowed them to do is create what is almost the weirdest MCU film yet, and they do so with creativity. There are likely plenty of plot holes under the surface, but there’s at least an internal logic that everything is unflinchingly running on that makes it possible to ignore most of it and see what these moments are: fan service disguised as plot progression.

Each of the actors are all bringing their A-game, and show the most gumption and dramatic fervor in their smallest scenes. Chris Evans and Robert Downey Jr., especially, deliver top of their career work, showing exactly why these films have stood above their counterparts.

It all works so well because of the people; not the action or spectacle. Before their subsequent films, Robert Downey Jr., Mark Ruffalo, Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth and Jeremy Reiner were all relative nobodies. The same goes for the likes of Chris Pratt, Dave Bautista, Clark Gregg and Sebastian Stan.

These are now people intrinsically tied to these characters they’ve dedicated years to performing, with the kind of lifetime association they’ve achieved being on the level of something like “Star Wars” or “Star Trek.”

“Endgame” ends up delivering not just with its action and finite nature, but because it zeroes in on allowing these character moments to shine through - it consists of people with extraordinary abilities allowing themselves to fight for their own interests some of the time.

This isn’t a film about people saving the world because it’s their job or because they have to.

By playing into that ideal, it means the punches hit harder and matter more. It isn’t about saving billions of people; it’s about saving the few. That’s what matters and that’s what projects the film into the realm of being a truly emotionally satisfying climax.

To pick apart “Endgame” any further would be to miss the point of its existence: this isn’t a normal film, this is a culmination of years of work. This is a three-hour third-act for the MCU. It’s a miracle that it works without suffering from massive tonal problems and pacing issues.

But it also exemplifies the best and worst that the MCU has to offer. Sometimes the humor seems out of character with the scenes going on, sometimes the action can be jarring or quickly paced, sometimes the visuals are a bit shoddy. It feels less like film-making

accidents but instead, it’s a commitment to a singular vision of a cinematic style that was started ten years prior.

Funny enough, the best way to describe “Endgame” is with the man and movie that started it all. Like Tony Stark himself, “Endgame” can be a bit bombastic, overblown and self-congratulatory. But it also works hard to earn that bombastic-ness. Several shots seem worthy of being hung on walls, almost as if the film momentarily splits into Greek-style murals of action and superhuman feats.

Sometimes it’s down on itself and other times it feels heavy-handed. But at the end of the day, it’s exactly what it should have been. A celebration and a glorious conclusion, warts and all. It does feel like a massive undertaking, like so many action figures being smashed together inside of the mind of an uber-fan. It’s a massive victory lap for the MCU, pulled off in as graceful and creative way as a victory lap possibly could be.

But ... who cares? This is a film meant for those, across so many ages, lives, personalities, who have grown with these characters at various times in their lives. It’s a celebration of the hope that can be inspired by characters and adventures so outlandish they can’t possibly be true. For so many, they are as real as they could possibly be.

To write anymore would be to do a disservice to the work that has been done. It’s satisfying and emotionally powerful, that’s all that needs to be said. So go embrace the finale. Part of the journey is, indeed, the end. But it can also be a celebration. What a Marvel-ous celebration it is.



5/5

AVENGERS ENDGAME

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARVEL STUDIOS AND WALT DISNEY MOTION PICTURE STUDIOS.





America's donations to Notre Dame receive rightful backlash

By Devina Applewhite | Opinions Staff | @longwoodrotunda

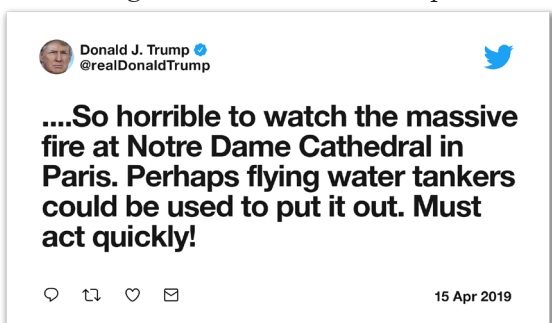
COURTESY OF NBC NEWS

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

After becoming engulfed in flames on April 15, the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France gained an enormous amount of media attention.

The fire covered the city's skies in masses of billowing, black smoke clouds, and destroyed the 850-year-old historic structure with unsalvageable damage to the church's roof and spire, according to BBC News.

Many of the iconic beloved art pieces and religious artifacts were untouched by the fire's damage. However, there is still a lot to be done in regards to the cathedral's reparations.



In a public statement following the fire, President of France Emmanuel Macron said, "Notre Dame is our history, it's our literature, it's our imagery. It's the place where we live our greatest moments, from wars to pandemics to liberations...I'm telling you all tonight--we will rebuild this cathedral together."

Macron also called out to other nations, asking for unity and financial aid in order to help rebuild such a monumental building.

Since then, different nations have come together and donated or vowed to donate to France following the destruction of the Notre Dame Cathedral.

Globally, more than \$700 million was donated the Tuesday after the fire took place, according to the New York Times.

The United States has also vowed to step in and help rebuild the cathedral - President Donald Trump is looking to donate \$1 billion to the cause.

People took to social media, expressing their disapproval of such a large donation.

Though lending a helping hand to France in their time of need seems to be a noble act, many Americans feel as though this large sum of money could be used for more important, domestic matters within the United States' borders.

Many people were quick to point out it being five years since Flint, Michigan has had clean water. The United States has decided to use the money on this international affair instead of applying those funds to help the population of Flint.

Other internal crises such as finding a control for global warming or repairing the damages of arson attacks on black churches need American funding and support just as much as the Notre Dame Cathedral renovations.

What is important to remember is that all of these crises-- both national and international-- deserve attention and the proper funding. However, where the American people get upset is that funding should first be given to those who need help inside of the country and then to those outside of the country.

Rightfully, the

American people feel betrayed.

While it's necessary for nations to come together and show solidarity for the loss of a building that was not only a symbol of religion but also a home for the arts, it is also imperative the United States takes the time to address the concerns going on within their nation that need just as much attention.

USA Today stated that a general position among critics of these donations is these large amounts of money going towards the rebuilding of Notre Dame proves "social problems could be quickly addressed if the wealthy were motivated to do so."

One cannot deny the importance of the Notre Dame Cathedral and how significant it was to those from all around the world. However, Americans are not asking for Notre Dame to remain in ruins nor asking America to cease to contribute donations.

All the American people want is for their voices to be heard and for their hardships to be taken just as seriously.



COURTESY OF VOA NEWS

On April 15, the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France caught on fire, destroying the church's roof and spire.

Biden's unwanted affection may ruin chances of presidency

by Taiya Jarrett | Opinions Staff | @ohsootay

COURTESY OF FEDERAL FLAGS

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

Former United States Vice President Joe Biden announced his campaign for the 2020 presidential race on April 25, despite recent concern of his credibility being up for debate.

Having worked in the White House, Biden is undoubtedly more than qualified for the position as president. It's no surprise Biden has held many governmental positions that have allowed him to broaden his background and his touch. However, that may be his downfall.

News of his run has been in speculation for a few weeks now, but so has his personal life merging into his work life.

Coming to the surface just after weeks before his announcement of his candidacy, Biden has been at the forefront of a #MeToo scandal as the alleged perpetrator of unwanted physical harassment by more than a few women.

Ranging from a White House intern Vail Kohnert-Yount, congressional aide Amy Lappos, journalist D.J. Hill to a former university student Caitlyn Caruso, ex-Capitol Hill staffer Ally Coll and a survivor of sexual assault Sofie Karasek. These women have come forward to express their uncomfortable interactions with the well-known politician.

As of most recently, democratic political candidate Lucy Flores publicly shared her story as she penned an article for the New York Times where she thoroughly describes her uncomfortable encounter with Biden back in 2014. Such encounters were engulfed in inappropriate touching and actions—hand placement on her neck and shoulders, smelling her hair and kissing her forehead.

In efforts to reclaim his image, but by the same token minimize these womens' allegations, Biden counteracted these allegations.

According to CNN he stated, "In my many years on the campaign trail and in public life, I have offered countless handshakes, hugs, expressions of affection, support and comfort. And not once - never - did I believe I acted inappropriately. If it is suggested I did so, I will listen respectfully. But it was never my intention."

However, over the course of many years, women have gone from silent to resilient and have become innately dismissed. Biden's response completely undermines these seven women's experiences.

In doing so, his efforts to rebuild and reclaim his image may have truly gone unnoticed,

much like these ongoing occurrences of women being subjected to the mistreatment made by a trusted male-counterpart. Furthermore, let's not pretend asserted male power and dominance doesn't exist in this patriarchal society today and hasn't made its way onto the seat of the White House—because it indeed has.

Reigning as the current United States President, Trump's 2016 Presidential campaign primarily ran off the basis of racist, narcissistic, misogynistic and sexist remarks, which has yet to discontinue. However, during his campaign, a 2005 tape resurfaced of number 45 proudly saying the vulgar-esque comment "grab them by the pussy" in a failed attempt to pursue a woman.

Therefore, years later his misogynistic behavior, attitude and overall disregard of respect towards and for women has won him a seat in the house, so perhaps Biden will fit right in.

As his credibility has come into question, there's a substantial amount of concern of whether he's even fit to run the nation, so will Biden be your 46?

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Student fees remain driving force behind athletics departmental revenue

Longwood basketball programs are top sources of income and biggest spenders as department's "revenue-generating" sport

by Patrick Sanderson | Assistant Sports Editor | @psanderson20

For the 2018 fiscal year, the total net income for Longwood athletics was reported as a surplus of \$238,980, an increase from the previous year. The net income derives from the excess of total operating revenues over total operating expenses and of the revenue, almost two-thirds came from student fees, according to the athletic department's most recent financial statement.

The financial statement has to be filled out and submitted to the NCAA, and reported that the total operating revenue totaled \$12,163,488.

Student fees, such as auxiliary costs, made up \$7,978,606 - a small increase from the 2017 fiscal year, that generated \$7,702,925. In recent years, the amount of student fees has remained a significant contributor to funding the athletics department and their programs.

A percentage of student fees from the university is allocated towards athletics every year, according to Vice President for Administration and Finance Louise Waller.

"Right now we're at about 64 to 65 percent of student fees going towards athletics," Waller said. "We're very much in line, and even less than some of our competitors."

In comparison, 84 percent of student fees are allocated for athletics at Radford University and 77 percent is allocated at James Madison University. Old Dominion University sits closely with Longwood in this regard, putting forth 62 percent towards athletics, according to Waller.

The percentage of student fees allocated to athletics relies on a few factors, causing the number to change every year. According to Interim Athletics Director Michelle Meadows, factors include student enrollment, tuition and fees, comprehensive fee breakdowns and student revenue.

Part of tuition includes a comprehensive fee, which is broken down to a percentage that's distributed toward different departments, such as athletics, parking and transportation, facilities and more. Each department or service is given a certain amount of these fees per credit hour, but the amount fluctuates, according to Longwood's website.

For the 2018-19 fiscal year, \$68.18 in comprehensive fees was distributed to athletics per credit hour, the most among all categories. Though athletics saw a slight

decrease from the 2017-18 fiscal year, they remained the top departmental recipient.

However, all fees come with spending thresholds, limiting programs on what they can or can't use the money for.

"Largely, we, as a state agency, are limited with what we can use our funds for, and we have lots of guidelines," Waller said. "As a whole, state funds are very restrictive anyway, so all of these fees have restrictions."

it could be used for a one-time strategic initiative, or it could be used for tuition, like scholarships," Meadows said. "It's hard to delineate exactly where it's going, oftentimes it is a supplementary source to our overall budget."

The department's total operating expenses are listed as \$11,924,508, with roughly one-third generated from athletic student aid. The expenses include summer school, tuition discounts and aid for inactive or ineligible student-athletes.

Of the 14 teams at Longwood, men's and women's basketball covered 40 percent of all salaries, benefits and bonuses paid by the university. Men's head basketball coach Griff Aldrich's initial base salary is \$150,000 and women's basketball head coach Rebecca Tillett's initial base salary is \$105,000, with each having a \$5,000 annual increase along with performance-based bonuses. According to Meadows, in being a

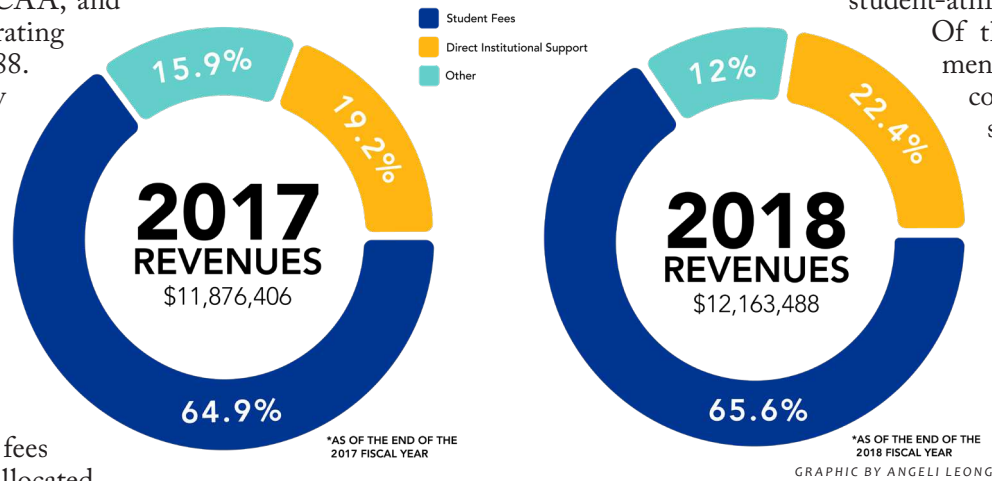
Division I program, this is a common practice among the majority of institutions with their most popular athletics programs.

"You would classify basketball as a revenue-generating sport, and (with) revenue-generating sports across the country, you will find that the salaries are marketably higher than a non-revenue generating sport," she said.

In total, the six men's programs total operating expenses reached \$3,605,098, with almost 50 percent attributed to men's basketball. The eight women's programs totaled \$4,222,433, with nearly 30 percent coming from women's basketball.

Aside from student fees, the department and certain programs receive funds through multiple avenues, including contributions and guarantees. Student fees remain the bulk of all departmental revenue, reaching the highest amount in school history in previous years, played in part by institutional growth. The result is departments on campus continuing to grow, such as athletics.

"We place a lot of emphasis too on trying to find ways to generate external sources of revenue to help to support the athletics programs so that we can keep tuition and fees affordable and continue to invest in our student-athletes," Meadows said. "We understand our responsibility in that and we are continuing to work towards that."



Every year, athletics goes through a budget planning and request process, communicating with different university officials to determine how much the department needs. The funds they request will come directly from the university auxiliary budget and is determined by the Board of Visitors. Meadows, formerly serving as chief financial officer, said once the budget is approved, athletics is able to move forward in budget planning.

"We will then estimate the revenue that we can generate within athletics, and then we will determine our budgets for each of our programs from there," she said.

As of Jan. 31, 2019, the athletics department was given a budget of \$8,480,492 by the Board of Visitors, according to a Longwood University financial overview.

The majority of student fees and direct institutional support make up a combined 88 percent of all the departmental revenue and are classified under non-program specific funds. These funds are generated revenue not tied to a specific sport. According to Meadows, the money is aggregated into this category and distributed over their budget to fund all programs, support units and student-athletes.

Direct institutional support revenue is money from the university auxiliary budget and can be used for multiple purposes.

"It could be used for operational expenses,



Lancers try to right ship despite season full of adversity

Baseball sits last in Big South Conference with 10 to go.

by Kurt Martin | Sports Editor | @IamKurt14

The Lancers get some last words of wisdom from head coach Ryan Mau before their April 26 contest versus the USC Upstate Spartans.

In a season where Longwood baseball has been unable to find consistent footing, their fate will come down to the final 10 games to clinch a berth into the Big South Tournament.

Currently sitting at 10-33 and 4-17 in conference play, the team is last in the Big South Conference, two games behind Charleston Southern.

The top nine seeds clinch a berth into the conference tournament.

For head coach Ryan Mau, this year's journey has been full of adversity which has led to it being a difficult season.

"I told our guys, life is full of adversity and there's only two options and one option is obviously just to pack it in and cower in the corner and that's not an option for us," said Mau. "Our only option is to fight back and get ourselves out of that corner."

A corner the Lancers now find themselves in after beginning the conference slate at 2-1. The team would then go on to lose 18 of their next 21 games and fall to their current mark.

The team suffered three losses in walk-off fashion during their recent nine-game road trip that included crucial in-conference matchups with High Point University and Radford University.

"It has been a long, rough stretch for us and we had a couple of competitive games that we just couldn't finish," said Mau. "Having three walk-offs in the last two plus weeks was

emotionally draining and difficult."

The Lancers were able to find the win column this past Tuesday as they avenged a loss from earlier in the season and took down the Spartans from Norfolk State 5-3.

Junior shortstop Antwaun Tucker has faced adversity of his own this season as he suffered an injury in the team's March 1 contest in Hawaii. Despite missing time and only playing in 29 games to date, Tucker currently is second on the team with a .302 batting average.

"(I'm) not trying to do too much, just come back and help the team anyway that I can," said Tucker.

He said the team has increased focus and drive going throughout the rest of the season.

"Sometimes we lack the energy and it shows on the field, but we will come with

one hundred percent every game, ready to grind," said Tucker. "We don't bounce back well I would say. So when something bad happens on the field we are kind of deflated after that and we just need to pick it up and turn it on more."

The Lancers currently have nine conference games remaining on the schedule including this weekend's aforementioned matchup with the USC Upstate Spartans.

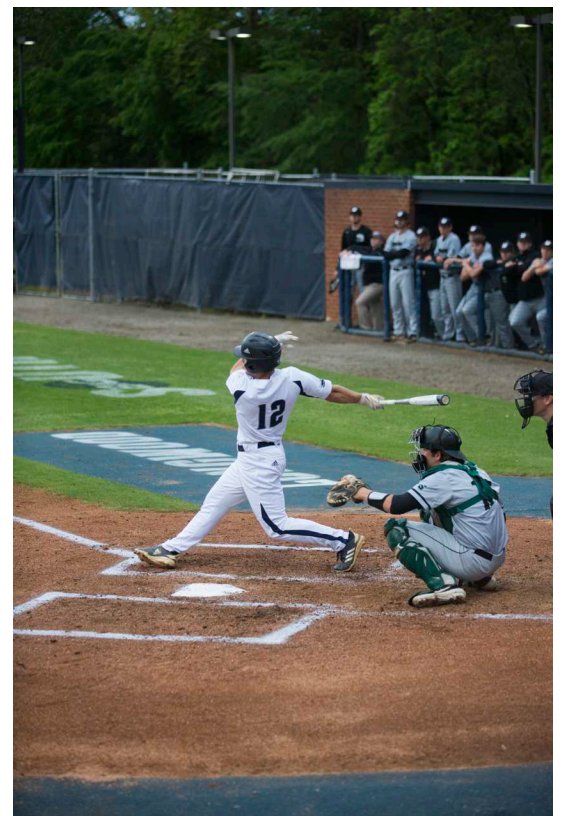
The team yielded 13 walks in game one of the series en route to a 16-2 loss. Freshman Cullan Wadsworth led the team with a 3-for-4 effort and added his first home run of the season.

On Saturday, the team again fell to the Spartans by a score of 13-9 as Upstate struck eight times in the seventh inning to take full control of the contest and series.

Sunday found the team on the wrong end of a pitchers duel, as the Lancers had the tying run on base in the ninth, but eventually fell 4-2.



Junior Jacob Mitchell holds a Spartan runner at first base. The team would eventually drop the game 16-2.



Freshman Cullan Wadsworth shined in the Lancers April 26 matchup with USC Upstate. The Pennsylvania native would go 3-for-4, including his first career home run.

In need of a quick turnaround in the win column, the Lancers will try to rebound moving forward to regain lost ground for the final spot in the Big South tournament.

"It's been a lot, but the season is not over and we are still fighting as a team which I am proud of and we will see what we can get done here in the next couple of weeks," said Mau.

CARRIE BAILEY | THE ROTUNDA



Longwood softball readies for Big South tournament

Victory in road series clinches top seed for Kathy Riley's team

by Nick Lewis | Sports Staff | @NickLewis_315

Lancers celebrate a walk off double by Jenna Dunn to mercy rule Hampton in the 6th and win the series.

Currently sitting at 31-16 and 17-4 in the Big South Conference, Longwood softball will finish their season with nine straight road games on the docket with two three-game sets at Presbyterian College and Virginia Tech. The team will then end the season at former Big South rival Liberty University on May 4.

Head coach Kathy Riley said she will use the out-of-conference games to play with her lineup and mix it up. Riley plans on allowing players like freshman infielder Madison Blair and sophomore infielder Jenna Dunn to get some more at-bats.

"I'm not quite concerned about winning than I am in other situations because I want to use these games as a mini conference tournament," Riley said.

Sophomore pitcher Sydney Backstrom said the team is playing better in the conference portion of their schedule whereas last year they played better all-around. Backstrom added she learned to be confident in conference games; however, the out-of-conference schedule affected how she pitches now.

"If I do well in tougher games then it makes me more confident and trust everything more

in our conference games," Backstrom said.

Senior catcher Kaylynn "Bug" Batten said every team steps up their game and gives it their best shot in the conference tournament.

"I think most importantly is for us to stay competitive and stay in the game," Batten said. "We've had some games where we've come back a lot in the fifth, sixth, and seventh

bunts, squeeze plays and steals to help in those close games from the offensive end.

Riley hopes their best games are still ahead even though they hit well in the final home series against Hampton. The Lancers hit better when there are runners on base as opposed to when the bases are empty, according to Riley.

"You play things a little closer to the vest,

my philosophy generally speaking is to always hit away until we get late in the game and I think you might give up an out or two early to make sure you get an extra run in," Riley said.

Riley also said she likes to take everything one day at a time and hasn't thought about the Virginia Tech doubleheader.

"As soon as we're done with Presbyterian then we'll really change our focus and start focusing on the conference tournament," Riley said.

Longwood currently sits first in the conference over second place USC Upstate, whom the Lancers swept back in March.



(Left) Chelsea Whitcomb slides into second base stealing two bases Wednesday afternoon. (Top Right) Leah Powell earns a bunt single beating the throw from Hampton pitcher Allyson Babinsack. (Bottom Right) Jordan Clark smiles on third base after collecting three hits and two RBIs on Wednesday.



inning and it's not ever that we feel any pressure, we always have girls come through which is very important."

According to Riley, in order to take the next step for tournament play the team has to play better defense and get good outings from the pitching staff. She added the team can use

SENIOR COLUMN:

Christine Rindfleisch, former editor-in-chief

by Christine Rindfleisch | Former Editor-in-Chief | @its_rINDfleisch

Once upon a time, a young freshman took the long ride from the sixth floor of Frazer Hall to attend the involvement fair on Brock Commons with a small ounce of hope of finding a family for the next four years.

Fast forward four years, hours of interviews, a handful of stories and many sleepless nights later and here I am. And yes, I did find a family in *The Rotunda*.

Little did I know I would be writing this as the former Editor-in-Chief and would be about to leave behind my home of the last four years when I wrote my first article on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline in the fall of 2015.

Looking back on my time with *The Rotunda* is bittersweet. This organization challenged me like I had never been challenged before and for that I am so grateful.

To my Rotunda'ers that I leave behind, you have a long trek in front of you and if it's easy, then you aren't doing it right. But, I assure you, hard work pays off. I have loved watching each and every one of you grow into your role and I can't wait to see where you take your new positions.

Lastly, I urge you to step out of your comfort zones because without doing that,

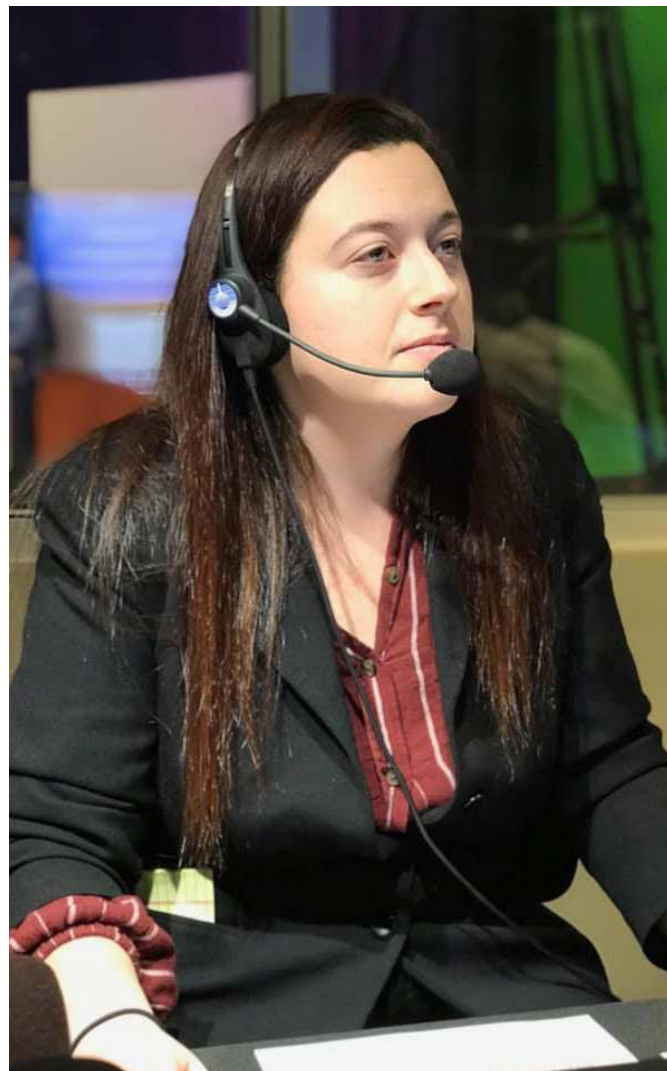
there is no growth. Always remember you are the voice of the campus and no other organization can say that.

To the Communication Studies program, I wouldn't be half the person I am today without you. If you haven't met the Comm professors yet, boy oh boy, are you missing out on some of the coolest people I have and ever will meet.

The professors are what make Longwood all that it is so I challenge Longwood to invest in the educators that prepare us for the road ahead and help us enjoy the ride. We have enough buildings and construction is not why students choose Longwood, it's the professors that genuinely care about our well-being.

Last but certainly not least: to Longwood, I promise to try my absolute best to live up to the citizen leader you want me to be. As a first generation college graduate, Longwood has meant more, to not only me, but my entire family. You are not perfect but nothing and no one is but if you listen to the students you will find out what Longwood needs in the future so I encourage you to listen.

I am often asked where, or even what, Longwood University is and I always reply that it's the best place on Earth.



Erin Eaton, former managing editor

by Erin Eaton | Former Managing Editor | @eleaton6

When I first came to Longwood, I never anticipated being committed to anything other than my education. However, being in the communication studies program, we were more than encouraged to get involved on campus. At first, I thought I wanted to be a writer so where else to go but *The Rotunda*? It was the perfect fit, but not for the reasons I initially thought.

I started by writing a basic 500-word features article about Dr. Jordan's Bonfire but quickly realized I was more captivated by the newspaper itself. It was like any old newspaper, really, and like most newspapers it looked a little outdated so instead I decided to join the layout staff to help improve our design. That little bit of determination grew into a passion I never expected.

It pushed me to take our newspaper layout to the next level with a more modern magazine design. That's one of my biggest and proudest accomplishments in my time here at Longwood and it wasn't easy. The amount of trial and error we went through was tedious and frustrating at times but more rewarding each week as I learned how to improve. That's my biggest take away from this organization: you're never done improving yourself and

your talents.

As I progressed in my digital media concentration, I discovered my love for media overall and *The Rotunda* gave me the opportunity to truly immerse myself in more than just design when I became managing editor. This role allowed me to learn so much more not only about the logistics of a news organization but as well as the hard-working people behind it. I developed incredible relationships with some of the most passionate people at Longwood. They are my biggest supporters on my darkest days and my inspiration to constantly improve my work.

To them I'd like to say: never stop pushing yourself. This organization is meant to be a learning experience and a place to grow. Challenge yourself and then do some more because that's how you grow. Tell the stories that scare you the most because they are the most important. Longwood needs all of you to be the voice of the students.

I never would have thought that going to one Monday meeting my freshman year would give me a whole family. I wouldn't be who I am today without *The Rotunda*. Thank you all for an unforgettable four years.

Nicole Del Rosario, former Rotunda Studios executive producer

by Nicole Del Rosario | Former Rotunda Studios Executive Producer | @nicdelro

Of all the scripts and videos I have edited, I think this is going to be the most taxing assignment I have ever done for *The Rotunda*. To have something you have dedicated an inordinate amount of time towards and been a part of for over two years taken away from you is not always the easiest task. Maybe my way of coping with this is treating this like a breakup... So *Rotunda*, I am breaking up with you.

Allow me start out by saying: it isn't you, it's me. Sometimes people grow and need to find out who they are as individuals. Don't get me wrong—you have helped me in many ways and I am eternally grateful for you and Rotunda Studios. Without you, I would not have been able to be an anchor a news show with my best friend, Alaina, wear construction gear to cover a tour of the almost-ready Upchurch or have been able to create *On The Record*.

Let the record show this breakup was mutual and we agreed to end on good terms.

I will admit these past few months have not been the best for our relationship. Honestly, this one is definitely on me because senior year took a toll on me and I know I neglected you at the very tail end of our time together. Sorry, pal, you didn't deserve that.

While I am sad to go our separate ways, I know you will be in good hands with the new leadership for the next year. I am 100 percent positive TJ will give you the love and support you deserve.

Who knows? Maybe I will see you some time in the future. When that time comes, I know you would be a better version of yourself, as will I.

It has been an absolute joy to be with you and thank you so much for one of the best chapters of my life.



Alaina Jacques, Rotunda Studios staff

by Alaina Jacques | Rotunda Studios staff | @alainajacques

“Welcome back to News Break, I'm Alaina Jacques” - those are the words that started my journey with *The Rotunda*, a journey I will be forever grateful for. However, if you so graciously stumble across the first News Break in the re-vamping of Rotunda Studios, please, I am begging you, do not share it with your friends.

The young, inexperienced, deer in headlights to the right, is me. Now yes I am probably being a little hard on myself, but luckily through working persistently each semester, I have grown and improved considerably and I have *The Rotunda* to thank for that.

For the last two years I have worked so diligently to tell the stories of Longwood University in a timely, professional and creative manner. I have sat at the news desk with my best friend since day one, Nicole Del Rosario, reporting on news each week. The laughs, the tears, and the late nights editing have been so worth it, since it meant I got to be doing what I love with the people I love.

I have had incredible opportunities, getting the chance to report on astonishing stories here. I have interviewed influential students on campus who are creating a change and making a difference. I have met incredible people who are making an impact all over

the country and who brought that inspiration to Longwood. The relationships I have created with others on the campus I owe to *The Rotunda* as well. Covering a story, I am recognized for my work and the positive feedback I've received brings me so much joy, just knowing I am doing my part.

Writing this right now brings so many emotions to the surface. These last two years with *The Rotunda* have been some I'll never forget. It is so strange and heartbreaking to leave the place I have called home for four years, walking into a future that is unknown for me. There will be no late nights in the French edit suites anymore, no more lugging camera equipment across campus, and no more Monday night meetings. Having said that, I am really excited to grow and to see where life takes me in this next chapter in my life.

So thank to *The Rotunda* for all of the opportunities, friends, and experiences you have given me, I will never forget you and I'll be forever grateful.

I'm Alaina Jacques and that was *On The Record*.



Eva Wittkoski, former assistant photo editor

by Eva Wittkoski, Former Assistant Photo Editor | @longwoodrotunda



My time at Longwood has been something that I never expected. I've met people from all different walks of life that I never even imagined I would meet.

I've had many different experiences that have helped me become who I am today, both good and bad. That's life. I am thankful for every person that has been a part of my life, no matter how small, because that has taught me something that I will hold onto for the rest of my life.

What I am most thankful for though is *The Rotunda*. I joined

it simply because it had been recommended to me by a few people within my major and it sounded interesting. It has become so much more than that though.

It has become a family to me that pushes me to become better and grow in any way that I can. They support me through bad days and I try to do the same for them. I can confide in them about anything. The family is constantly growing so I'm not as close with some as others.

Everyone is always kind though, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere that I always want to be in. Through the organization, I've also fostered my passion for journalism while becoming more informed of what's happening on campus.

Overall, I couldn't imagine being a part of any other organization and I wouldn't want to change anything about my experience at Longwood with *The Rotunda*.

Isabella Corbo, copy staff

by Isabella Corbo | Copy Staff | @ivcorbo



amazes me. In this organization I have been able to push myself to become a better editor and a better writer in my classes.

The Rotunda has helped me to become more open minded and creative. This organization has given me tools that I can use both in and outside of the classroom. Because of this, I think I will be able to succeed in anything I do after graduation.

As an English major, I have many options in the career field. My hope is that I will become either an editor for a publication firm or a paralegal. I know that with either job I will be able to apply these new tools in my work.

I want to thank everyone on staff at *The Rotunda* that has given me this amazing opportunity. Without this organization I do not think I would feel the same way about my future as I do now.

I look forward to my remaining time in this organization and I wish nothing but the best for my fellow Rotunda'ers and their future endeavors!

Thank you for everything.

Throughout my time at Longwood, I have been a part of several different organizations. By far, *The Rotunda* has been one of my favorite. Though I have only been in the organization for a short time, saying goodbye is hard.

My fellow staff members have taught me so much, especially the copy staff. I have learned so much in my short time on staff that it

Nick Lewis, sports staff

by Nick Lewis | Sports Staff | @NickLewis_315



One last time I will wake up and go to class. One last time I'll walk into CSTAC and French. One last time I'll walk across campus taking in all the students wanting the semester to be over. One last time I'll look around and see my friends before we all become real adults and start living adult lives.

There are a lot of things that we do for one last time that we don't even realize, and we take them for granted. Longwood has been good to me these last three years, teaching me things and helping me meet some of my favorite people in the world. Longwood has also allowed me to gain the recognition of my work among my peers which is one of the greatest feeling in the world. Having your friends, classmates and

professors tell you, you had a good article, video or project is something that everyone should be proud of.

School isn't just about getting good grades and doing the bare minimum, it should be about trying to put your best work possible into the world where you aren't yet respected as a professional. What I've learned however, it that as long as you're confident in what you're doing they won't be able to tell you're a student.

I owe everything I learned to the COMMunity. Without the help of Dr. Stouffer, Professor Halliday, Clint Wright and my Comm lab classes I don't know how I would be what I am today. I also owe a lot to the athletics department for allowing me to work on Big South Network and ESPN Plus. Without them I wouldn't have rediscovered my passion for sports broadcasting and for allowing me to create amazing relationships with coaches within the department. I owe my skills on-air to Darius Thigpen and TJ Wengert, because without them I know I definitely wouldn't be as good as I am, and I've truly learned a lot from the two of them which is something I couldn't be without.

I was only in two organizations my first year, one was club swim and the second was the Big South Network. My second year I added WMLU and that was only because TJ asked me

to join and help him with sports. Without being asked I wouldn't have met all the great people in that organization which I consider family. I've had so much fun with them over the past two years and that's something I'll never forget.

This past month I've joined *The Rotunda*, an organization that I regret not joining earlier despite my friends asking me to join. This is another organization filled with amazing people and although half of them I already know, I unfortunately haven't been able to know the other half. I do know that they all do amazing work and I am super appreciative of all the hard work everyone does to make sure my articles look good from layout, to the photo staff, to the editors and former editors who've helped me out.

I'm not ready to leave but everyone has their time and the longer the stay, the more painful goodbye. If you are still reading up to this point, I challenge you to look around you and truly appreciate everything you have. I'm talking about friends, professors, roommates and experiences you've had. The reason behind this is because all of these things influence who you are and who you will become. I know I'm appreciative of all my friends, professors and experiences I've had to make me who I am today, ready or not to graduate.

Thanks Longwood.



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