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NOVEMBER 4, 2019

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BRANDON CHEUNG | THE ROTUNDA

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In SGA

Disability resources, IFC deferred recruitment

by Allison Turner | Assistant News Editor | @allisonkturner

SGA Vice President Catherine Swinsky announces Hunger and Poverty Week, which will take place from November 4-10.

In this week's Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, Dana Kieran, M.S. director of disability resources came to Senate to discuss what her office does. Their office, located on the second floor in Brock Hall, helps students who have any type of disability be successful at Longwood. She added that students with disabilities are underrepresented at Longwood, and showed that with an activity.

Kieran said, "We are not a loud voice, we are in the shadows. We are in the shadows because the people we represent every day, sometimes live their lives in the shadows."

She added that students can help her office out by promoting a universally inclusive environment, challenge faculty and staff to step up to the plate occasionally to change the past, question unfair things and make sure you're using person-first language.

In Open Forum, VA21 Representative Amelia Graves confirmed that there will be rides to and from the polls on Tuesday, November 5 for the election. Rides will begin at 6 a.m. and will continue until everyone has finished voting in the evening around 7 p.m.

Fraternity & Sorority Life Representative Robert Miller announced that the resolution for deferred recruitment was not passed by IFC. The reasoning for it was to keep first year students focused on academics and on transitioning to Longwood. The decision was first made and announced at the IFC Town Hall on Thursday, October 24.

In the Vice President's Report, Catherine Swinsky announced that Hunger & Poverty Week will be from November 4 to November 10 on campus. There will be a community service project from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, November 9 that anyone can be a part of for Habitat for Humanity.

The next SGA meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 5 at 3:45 p.m. inside of the Wilson Chamber at the Upchurch University Center.



ADA Coordinator Dana Kieran, M.S. educates members of SGA on the Office of Disability Resources. She came prepared with a game that was based on statistics of people with disabilities on campus.



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ARC Residence Hall closed due to low enrollment and maintenance

by Allison Turner | Assistant News Editor | @allisonkturner

Academic Residential Community (ARC) Hall, one of Longwood's eight residence halls, has been closed temporarily for at least the duration of the 2019-2020 academic year.

ARC was originally built and opened for student use in 1992. Matt McWilliams, assistant vice president of communications and associate editor for Longwood Magazine, stated that ARC was due for an upgrade.

He said, "Functionally, it is the oldest residence hall on campus. All the other residence halls have either been built after 1992 or have been renovated since then."

McWilliams said that the decision to close down ARC was brought on by a few reasons, the biggest being the enrollment rate dropping for this academic year. The new freshmen class consists of less than 900 students, and with Frazer being utilized again as well as Sharp and Register being open, the need for ARC declined.

He added that since the building is the oldest on campus that has not yet been renovated, it was first on their list to close down and receive an upgrade.

ARC was officially closed this summer after housing students and alumni for Longwood's annual Alumni Weekend. Maintenance began on the building immediately, with the staff working to strategically fix issues due to the building's old age.

Louise Waller, vice president for administration and finance, added that although ARC is being redone, it

will not be receiving as much work as other residence halls, like Frazer have.

Waller said, "We are doing some maintenance work, really. Some work

Waller said, "When anyone that goes into ARC after being there before, I don't think that they're going to see anything exceptionally 'wow' or



Along with Curry, Arc Hall is closed due to maintenance.

is harder to do when the building is occupied and that building has been heavily used year-round, so having it offline to do some work will be good."

She added that they will be doing a deep cleaning, as well as painting and some electrical work. When asked if the building will visually look different when it is back up and running, she said no.

'fabulous', just some fixes."

As of this time, there is not a set date for when ARC is going to reopen for student use. Both Waller and McWilliams said that they are going to be taking it one step at a time, seeing what they can fix during this academic year. They will also be assessing the needs of the student population, and will include that in the decision on when to reopen the building.



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Kim Cassel Redford

I have known Tony Epps for almost 30 years. In the early years of our friendship, Tony was an investigator for the Prince Edward County Sheriff's Department. I remember talking with Tony about that job and the passion that he had for serving the people of Prince Edward. I spoke with Tony recently about his run for Sheriff. He still has that passion!

Tony's late wife, Paige was a close friend. We were all devastated when we lost her so tragically. Tony is doing a great job raising their sweet boys! I have always known Tony to be kind, honest and hardworking. I believe that those virtues make him the right choice for Sheriff. Please vote for Tony Epps for Sheriff on November 5th!

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Actions Speak LouderSM

Transgender folks aren't scary

7-year olds aren't being castrated, women aren't threatened by men in skirts and fact-checking is important

by Jesse Plichta-Kellar | Contributor

COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

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

Published last Monday in the Hampden-Sydney Tiger, Editor in Chief Wade Bredin's piece "Transgender Lies Become Tyrannical" is an affront to both human decency and persuasive writing.

In the interest of time and productive public discourse, we ought to focus on the former: his denial of transgender validity, Bredin's repetition of false claims (particularly regarding a seven year old in Texas), and his assumptions about the needs and wants of women.

Additionally, this column will seek to provide basic definitions and statistics (with citations) to provide a framework for those who may want more information.

The current accepted term for an individual who identifies as a gender different from their sex assigned at birth is transgender, which is sometimes abbreviated as trans or trans*.

Gender identity is who a person knows themselves to be, while sex is the biological assignment based on factors such as DNA and genitals. Someone who identifies as the gender that correlates with their sex is cisgender.

Gender identities can be binary (man or woman) or non-binary (any other gender identity). Misgendering is referring to someone as a gender that is not theirs.

According to a 2014 study from the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law, around .06 percent of the population identifies as

transgender. It should be noted that this may be lower than the reality, as LGBTQ people and transgender people specifically may not report themselves out of safety concerns and fear of social isolation.

Sex can be assigned as female, male, or intersex (referring to a person not being clearly identifiable as male or female, typically recognized by ambiguous genitalia).

The term transsexual is mostly outdated, although some older trans individuals who have medically transitioned still use it for themselves. The terms transvestite and tranny are also outdated-and the latter is considered a slur.

The Oxford Dictionary defines transphobia as a "dislike of or prejudice against transsexual or transgender people."

Note that this isn't just about fear as the "phobia" part may imply, but includes prejudices against transgender people, which brings me to Bredin's op-ed.

Although he states in his first paragraph he does not fear trans people and that he has "known and interacted with a number of transgender people in my life and have never found it difficult to treat them with the respect and dignity that all human beings deserve," he refers to transgenderism as a "delusion" in the next sentence. He's simply wrong: transgenderism is not a delusion.

Scientific studies also disagree with Bredin's thinking. According to a

recent study with 2,600 participants by the European Network for the Investigation of Gender Incongruence, which studied mostly pre-operation transgender individuals who had only recently begun hormone treatment, brain scans indicated that individuals identifying as transgender men were neurologically closer to cisgender (not trans) men than to women (transgender or cisgender).

Additionally, the study found that transwomen brains were more similar to ciswomen brains than to men's.

Studies regarding transgender folks are ongoing. We don't have nearly as much data as it would be nice to have about the (at least) 1.4 million transgender Americans, but the data we do have from the majority of completed, modern and non-discredited studies agree that transgenderism is real and not a delusion.

In other words: someone's gender is not necessarily the same as their sex. In the words of the American Psychological Association: "Sex is assigned at birth, refers to one's biological status as either male or female, and is associated primarily with physical attributes such as chromosomes, hormone prevalence, and external and internal anatomy. Gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviors, activities and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for boys and men or girls and women."

Bredin not only rejects the existence of

transgender people, but refers to their acceptance as “tyrannical” and claims it is actively damaging to society. There are two cases he attempts to make within this assessment: that children are being physically transitioned at too young of an age and that the inclusion of transwomen is harmful to (cis) women.

The lynchpin of Bredin’s argument regarding children and what he declares the inciting incident for him to write his op-ed was the custody case of a seven year old in Texas.

The social media frenzy and recent outcry in conservative media outlets is that the seven year old in question, Luna (James) Younger was being chemically castrated and given hormones. This claim is objectively false and Bredin repeated it in his op-ed.

There is no evidence, aside from the claims of the child’s father, Jeffery Younger on his website that his ex-wife Anne Georgulas is attempting to arrange for the “chemical castration and sex-change of his son.”

According to the Associated Press, “Court filings show that Georgulas [Younger’s mother] proposed a parenting plan earlier this month that said the child isn’t at an age where treatment with hormonal suppression, puberty blockers or gender reassignment surgery would be considered. The mother also asked the court to not allow any such treatment without both parents’ consent.”

Those court records sound like the opposite of the mother fighting to castrate her male child. It sounds like she was explicitly acknowledging that the child was too young for physical alteration. There was no judge order for any surgery to be performed or for the child to receive any hormones.

Luna Younger’s father is in an unpleasant custody case, unemployed and using this case online for publicity and fundraising, all while having no evidence to back his claim that Georgulas was attempting to or advocating for physical alterations in the child in any way. The evidence we do have runs directly to the contrary.

Georgulas does allow the child to

go by her chosen name and pronouns, Luna and she/her. She also allows Luna to dress and get haircuts that honor her gender identity. That’s not chemically or permanently altering the child (hair grows back).

"The Oxford Dictionary defines transphobia as a 'dislike of or prejudice against transsexual or transgender people.'"

The issue of Luna Younger (who Bredin also repeatedly misgenders) is that at the crux Bredin’s argument regarding why transgenderism is a problem, but the parts he’s using aren’t true. To be fair to Bredin, the falsehoods he’s repeated are very widespread on social media thanks to Jeffery Younger. However, he should of fact checked well before he built the foundations of his argument on it.

The other half of his transphobic argument is that allowing “men” (as he misgenders transwomen) to be in women’s spaces or represent themselves as women is damaging to (cis)women.

Bredin brings up “men” (transgender women) participating in sports with ciswomen as damaging to the latter. The integration of, boundaries regarding and dialogue around this issue are important and complex, but the case is not closed that it is inherently damaging to ciswomen athletes.

Furthermore, he asserts that women athletes are afraid to speak for themselves on this issue. They aren’t. A simple Google search will reveal that there are outspoken female athletes with a variety of opinions.

More amusingly he goes on about “men in skirts” in Congress and how that would be detrimental to women (somehow?). He questions “what victory it is for women, to have a man in a dress on a board and claim gender equality has been achieved” and wonders if “we fill half the seats in Congress with men in skirts, will women finally feel as if they are being heard?” He then goes on to claim that transgender “ideology” is damaging “a

century’s worth of progress towards real gender equality in our society.”

I will agree with Bredin that it’s better to be an American woman in 2019 than 1919, but completely reject the rest of his assessment. Where is this transwoman proclaiming gender inequality is solved?

Trans folks know gender inequality isn’t solved. Some of the fiercest fighters for gender equality are transgender people.

Many women, myself included, do celebrate the inclusion of transwomen and consider it a part of the long march towards gender equality. Not everybody does, however.

A marginal (but loud) group referred to as Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminists (TERF) don’t, but most women see transwomen as a part of the path to equality, not an obstacle.

No one is claiming that trans acceptance is the be-all and end-all that will solve women’s issues, and if someone is claiming that, they are in the absolute minority.

Furthermore, women don’t generally care if congressional representatives wear skirts. If anything, men or “men wearing skirts” (transgender women) could be a show of solidarity to women, and they’d finally make skirts with pockets and standardized sizing.

If women are supposedly threatened by men in skirts in Congress, then are men equally threatened by women in pants in Congress?

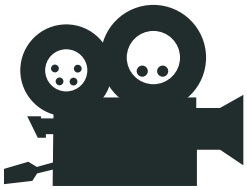
In any case, the odds that half of Congress will ever be transwomen or “skirt-wearing men” of any sort is abysmally low for a variety of reasons.

Women, particularly those who are taking an active interest in furthering gender equality, don’t really care about the genitalia or the fashion choices of those advancing the cause of gender equality.

Not only does Bredin demonstrate a fundamental misunderstanding of transgenderism, the article indicates a disconnect from what women want from allies as well. We don’t care if men wear skirts.

Most feminists (TERFs notwithstanding) accept trans women as part of our fight. My fellow marginalized person isn’t the enemy and pretending they are only delays progress.

Women want to be supported, not



THE REEL LIFE

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

A brand-new “Terminator” completely ignoring the events of the previous three films, by definition connecting itself to the best in the series, has a lot of weight on its shoulders and it could result in a “Dark Fate.”

Director Tim Miller (“Deadpool,” “Love, Death & Robots”) balances those expectations well. He and the writers; David S. Goyer (“Dark City,” “The Dark Knight”), Billy Ray (“Captain Phillips,” “Overlord”), Charles H. Eglee (“The Shield,” “The Walking Dead”), Justin Rhodes (“Grassroots,” “Contract Killers”) and James Cameron (“Avatar,” “Titanic”), manage to pay their dues to the original films while also moving a bit further out.

This reverence is both a massive positive, it sticks to the more simplistic and easier to follow structure of the originals, as opposed to the time traveling mind games of “T3” and “Genisys,” and a negative.

There’s a difference between paying respects and being derivative, and while the narrative is strong and simplistic, there are moments where it follows a bit too closely to the original film’s road map.

That’s not to say it doesn’t inject some twists, but those twists ultimately end up being smaller changes to the formula that don’t recontextualize the entire story, it just shifts it a bit.

The use of its Mexican cast members and setting help add some personality to the film and plot points such as having to cross the border and the entire first act in Mexico City help differentiate it from being yet another U.S. set “Terminator” film.

In fact, large expanses, thick forests, and huge deserts help to make this an extremely visually striking film, as do the action scenes. These sequences are thrilling and excellently shot and choreographed, even if they are a bit unoriginal. Even when things go completely buck-wild in the third act, it at least feels earned and makes

visual sense.

Quiet, somber moments are peppered throughout the film and while they mostly disappear by the time the third act rolls around, it is impressive just how much of the film involves talking.

Miller knows that a Terminator can only be threatening if they’re stalking their prey, and he also

TERMINATOR DARK FATE

★★★★ 3.5/5

utilizes these quiet moments to build the relationships and character arcs successfully. It works so well and by extent makes the action better because of the restraint involved.

Restraint is also the best way to describe the film’s action, until the third act that is. Miller purposefully holds the action to a smaller scale throughout the film, and while things go completely bonkers in the third act, even then it’s still on a relatively small scale. It has collateral damage that feels grounded thanks to its immediate impact on the characters; just one target, one Terminator, and a few protectors.

Those protectors end up elevating the film thanks to their chemistry and banter. Mackenzie Davis (“Blade Runner 2049,” “Halt and Catch Fire”) easily stands tall next to Arnold Schwarzenegger as a protector of this film’s target and she continuously kicks butt throughout this entire film.

She’s stern and yet incredibly charming and easy to care for. As is the woman she’s protecting, Dani, played by Natalia Reyes (“Birds of Passage,” “Cumbia Ninja”).

Dani might not be very capable initially, but Reyes performance helps to slowly evolve her over the course of the film; this means that when she turns into the heroine, she needs to be, it doesn’t feel jarring or out of place.

Schwarzenegger (“Total Recall,” “Predator”) also makes a return here, to much more success than in “Genisys.” He plays this older T-800 as an old soul, reflecting on his past actions and still willing to jump into the fray to set things right. He’s instantly charming and has a wonderful warmth to him.

Linda Hamilton’s (“Children of the Corn,” “Separate Lies”) return as Sarah Connor is worth praising to the high heavens. Like

Jamie Lee Curtis in last year’s new “Halloween,” she returns to the role that made her most famous with electric results.

Connor is whip smart, throwing quips and f-bombs around like a classic 80’s action star and Hamilton proves there’s still so much material left for this classic character.

Comparisons to the 2018 “Halloween” film are actually quite applicable. Thanks to a cast of new characters and old, all preformed excellently, this new “Terminator” manages to deliver some fabulous action and likable relationships despite its familiar and sometimes derivative plot.

Its willingness to hold back and let relationships build as well as the Terminators menace, makes for a much more enjoyable film. Sure, it’s a bit familiar, but given the past few “Terminator” films, familiar is perfectly fine, and in some moments, pretty exceptional.

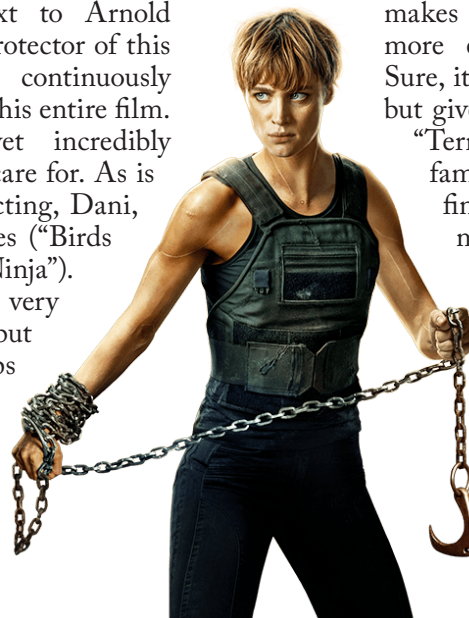


PHOTO COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES, SKYDANCE MEDIA, 20TH CENTURY FOX, LIGHTSTORM ENTERTAINMENT, TENCENT PICTURES, AND BUENA VISTA INTERNATIONAL.

Blasco looks to further leave his mark on Longwood Tennis

by Kurt Martin | Sports Editor | @IamKurt14

When senior Amadeo Blasco began his Longwood career in 2016, he was a player who had high potential, as he was named Big South Freshman of the Year, but needed improvement between the ears to fully cement himself as a next level player.

Director of Men's and Women's Tennis Jhonnatwan Medina-Alvarez said when he first took the job at Longwood, Blasco had all of the physical intangibles needed to be successful, with his 6-foot 2-inch frame and long arms, but played too aggressively on the court and didn't have the capability to deal with struggle, at the time.

Alvarez said himself and Blasco had a conversation after the then sophomore dropped his first match of the 2017-18 season to a player he should have defeated, and laid the groundwork on what was to be expected from him moving forward. They began working on a daily basis to better his style, but also recognize that there are many other factors to playing the game of tennis.

"Understanding that not every time doesn't have to be his own decisions, making sure that he can wait for the right time, understanding your opponent, interact with the different components of the wind, you know, the type of court, the moment in the match," said Alvarez.

Alvarez added the ability at the collegiate level to give feedback to a player while on the court was also a key factor in the maturation process.

Blasco, a native of Valencia, Spain, came to Farmville as a 17-year-old and still "wasn't fully grown up."

He said his teammates and coaches (former head coach Pierre Tafelski and Alvarez) have served as mentors in his career and have made him both a better player and person.

Their influence, along with his preparation, have now allowed for a more clear

thought process and better decision making on the court.

"I would say I have like a clear idea of what I need to do in order to win, to analyze my opponents better," said Blasco. "Because when I came I was just playing tennis, you know, now I have a plan every time. It depends on the player I play, obviously, so I can adapt."

The plan he makes before a match has nothing to do with the ranking of the other player, Blasco noted, as he feels any player on any day can simply have a better outing. However, he did say he analyzes the type of racket the other competitor uses, the way he walks and the ways he plays.

As not important as it may seem to those who don't play the game, Blasco said the racket the opponent uses has an effect on the game at hand due to the tension in the strings, which can affect the distance and trajectory of shots.

In late September, Blasco represented Longwood on one of the highest levels of college tennis at the Oracle ITA Masters in Malibu, California. While grabbing a win in doubles play, he was swept in individual play through the two days. Being there every step of the way, Alvarez said he saw something he had never seen before in Blasco's career.

"He didn't lose, he got beat. There is a different story, you know, when you go out there and you are losing because you are making bad decisions, no, he went to a match and he couldn't understand what was happening because the other guy always had an answer for him," said Alvarez. "And for me,

that was the beginning of the development from being a great player to

understand what needs to be done at the next level."

Alvarez said Blasco is a heavily respected player by his peers, so he is often given three points before a match due to his sheer talents, but playing nationally ranked players who didn't know who he was served as a learning curve.

When speaking on the experience himself, Blasco said he was able to further understand that each player has differing styles of play and further reiterated that the tournament strengthened the previously mentioned ability to adapt to all situations on the court.

After more preparation, two weekends ago, he took part alongside his fellow Lancer teammates in the inaugural Big South Fall Invitational.

No longer the underdog, Blasco said his goal was simply to enjoy the experience and play tennis simply with the "business as usual" mindset.

He did just that by winning all five matches, only dropping one set in the process to claim the tournament championship.

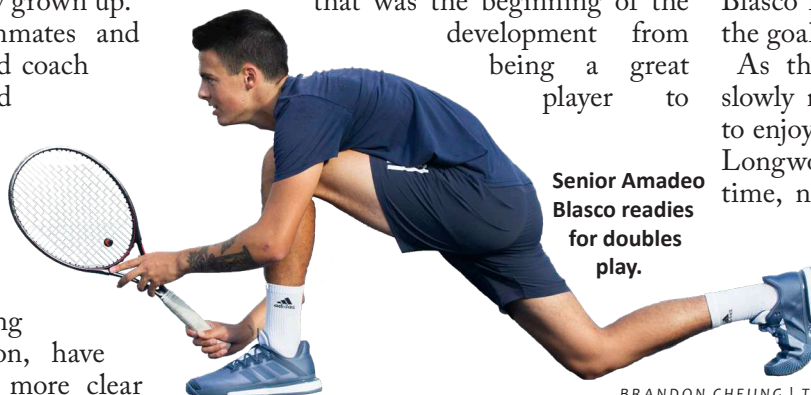
Alvarez said the Big South competition was an "emotional tournament" because Amadeo knew he was the best player in the field.

"From the beginning to an end, what I told him was 'it's not going to be how many winners you can make, it's how much you are open to going to that dark place, when you are going to feel uncomfortable, you are going to feel that you have no idea what you need to do, and you are going to have to stick to what we know,'" said Alvarez.

Alvarez added he was very proud of Blasco for the performance, as it was the goal set forth for the semester.

As the graduation month of May slowly nears, Amadeo said he wants to enjoy the rest of his tennis career at Longwood by taking one match at a time, not overlooking any opponent, and giving all he can to the program.

"I look at it as one last opportunity, one last ride."



Senior Amadeo Blasco readies for doubles play.



CARRIE BAILEY | FILE PHOTO

Spirits high for women's basketball as season opener nears

by Nick Robinson | Sports Staff | @longwoodrotunda

With opening tip-off against James Madison University (JMU) less than a week away, the women's basketball team has been holding their last few scrimmages to see where they stand as a team heading into the 2019-20 season.

The team is looking to improve upon last years' 3-27 campaign that saw only two conference wins and an eight-game losing streak to close out the season.

Second year Head Coach Rebecca Tillett believes the win total will be much higher this season, saying the team has improved in many areas.

"We're working hard to develop consistent chemistry on-and-off the court. We want to play up-tempo and we'd like to dictate how a game is going to be played," she said. "We have multiple defenses in to disrupt opponents. I think we'll play a little faster than we did last year and share the ball more than we did last year."

As Tillett mentioned, the team is working hard to develop chemistry since they have seven new players to go along with the six returning players. Some of those new players, like junior transfer Tra'dayja Smith, are expected to have big roles this season. Smith is expected to be the team's starting point guard.

Tillett credited Smith on her early impression she's made on the team. "Tra'dayja has certainly established herself as a consistent point guard for

us and has the opportunity to have great assist-to-turnover numbers. It's always exciting to coach a point guard who is really keyed into that. She's going to control the tempo and she's going to get people really good looks."

An important aspect of the culture that Tillett is trying to establish at Longwood is the Leadership Council, which is a group of players who set the standard for the rest of the team and serve as their representatives to the coaching staff.

To become a part of this council, players must go through an interview process with the coaching staff, write a cover letter and write out a resumé.

Tillett revealed this year's leadership council which consists of the aforementioned Smith, senior forward and Preseason First-Team All-Big South selection Dayna Rouse, junior forward Mallory Odell and freshman guard Anne-Hamilton Leroy.

Leroy is the first freshman to ever become a part of the Leadership Council.

About the decision to make a freshman a part of the council, Tillett said, "Anne has really earned the respect of her teammates as far as what she says in a team environment."

Amidst the changes, one familiar face to the Leadership Council is Mallory Odell. The Richmond, Virginia, native is entering her third season with the program and has seen her stats go up every year since arriving

to Longwood.

Odell said during the offseason, she has worked on her rebounding and helped to create a tougher team in practice by working with her teammates to be tougher in the paint.

Odell also spoke about what it was like to represent her teammates on the council.

She said, "It's a really great opportunity to work on my own leadership skills and insert them into the team and communicate with my teammates in the best way. We just get to have more candid conversations with coach Tillett that I think are really effective."

This offseason, the program took part in another round of "Toughness with the Marine Corps".

Odell described the training as, "tough, but that's the point. We did different relays and a wrestling workout together and there was always a focus on togetherness."

With the new additions, Odell and Tillett both said the training helped with team chemistry. Tillett also said it helped with the confidence of the team because they accomplished such daunting tasks together.

The team will be faced with their first regular season task on Wednesday, November 6, as they travel to Harrisonburg to take on the Dukes of JMU, with a 5 p.m. tip.

'They're sleeping on Longwood'

With offseason in rear-view, Lancers revved up to prove they're ready to contend in the Big South

by Patrick Sanderson | Assistant Sports Editor | @psanderson20

Despite matching their highest Big South conference preseason ranking since joining the league in 2012, senior guard Shaboody Phillips, who burst onto the scene last season, is interested to know why the Longwood men's basketball team was ranked at sixth place in the 2019-20 preseason poll.

"I think we should be higher – but we don't worry about that. We just worry about getting better every day and let everything else happen for itself," Phillips said.

He laughed: "They're sleeping on Longwood."

Players and teams as a whole, for the most part, try not to pay attention to their rankings – the end goal is to obviously win games, but knowledge of where they stand is unavoidable.

However, Phillips, senior guard Sean Flood and the rest of the Lancers see this as a challenge to prove critics wrong, going so far as to say they feel "disrespected" by their placement.

"It's absolutely given us an extra chip on our shoulder," Flood said.

This preseason ranking comes half a year removed from, arguably, one of the more historic seasons in their short Division I history, with expectations seemingly higher than they've been in years for men's hoops just days before their home opener against Marymount on Nov. 5.

The Lancers return their entire starting backcourt from the end of last season – Phillips, who was named to the All-Big South Preseason Second Team, senior guard Jaylon Wilson and senior forward JaShaun Smith.

Phillips and Flood praised 6-foot-11-inch freshman forward Abraham Deng, who is seemingly set to step in and provide a favorable size matchup in the lane. Deng will make his Longwood debut this season after sitting all of the 2018-19 season as a redshirt freshman.

As of two weeks ago around mid-October, head coach Griff Aldrich – even with six returning players including three starters from last season – hadn't solidified his starting five for Tuesday's opener, and the

rotation was still taking shape.

The college basketball world was buzzing this past summer with the announcement to expand the three-point line to a little over 22 feet, making the move from 20 feet, nine inches. The decision was made in June for a few reasons; to create more available space inside the three-point arc for dribble and driving lanes, and to slow down the trend of the three-point shot becoming too prevalent while still keeping it integrated in college offenses, according to the NCAA men's basketball rules committee.

Aldrich returns multiple weapons who are stellar shooters from beyond the arc. Phillips led the team in three pointers made last season with 74 followed by Flood and Smith with 51 each. Having those assets, especially with the type of offense Aldrich runs outside the arc, proved last season to be an integral part in their success. With the new measurement change this season, Flood believes the team won't be affected negatively in any way – rather being quite the opposite.

"If anything, I think it'd be better for us because the spacing will be more difficult for teams to guard and we'll be more spread out," the Dublin, Ireland native said. "There will be more driving lanes, opportunities for drive-and-kicks."

With the three-point game prevalent in the Lancers offense, some newcomers will look to make an instant impact in this facet, including sophomore guard DeShaun Wade, a transfer from East Carolina University. As well as sophomore forward and NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) product Christian Wilson.

Based on the performance of these players, among all other newcomers thus far, Phillips compared where they stand this year from where they were at this point a year ago – and the confidence in their offense is apparent.

"We're a little better this year because we're returning six or seven guys, so we already know how to run (the offense) and the newcomers are feeling it really good, so we're a little step ahead on

last year," Phillips said.

Aldrich echoed this thought in his Big South media day interview on Oct. 28; the unfamiliarity of being a brand-new Division I head coach has come and gone and is now in the full swing of developing new and old players.

"Last year, basically we had 15 new players and a new coach," Aldrich said. "We've got six returners back and have been through our paces once before, so (it's) a little bit easier."

The three-point arc being expanded surely opens up more space in the paint for driving opportunities and lanes to get to the basket – a part of their game they look to improve upon while maintaining a system identical to that of last year's.

"(We have) the same principles as last year ... We still want to get up and down, still want to shoot the ball, shoot a lot of threes, high percentage shots," Flood said. "We'll look to get the ball inside a little bit more than we did last year and get our bigs more touches around the block in that area."

The Lancers, who will debut their new-look uniforms and brand-new staff under Aldrich on Nov. 5, struggled in conference play following a 10-win non-conference schedule last season, including a massive win away from home over Richmond.

They keep relatively the same offensive and defensive systems, acclimating newcomers with the veterans. Ranked in the middle of the Big South preseason poll this year, they have a fresh start with the conference wide open – any team, Aldrich noted, no matter their season performance, can win on any day.

"Toughness", as Aldrich said on Big South media day, is an aspect of the Lancers game on the court which has to be established from the outset. Seeing as the reception of their conference expectations weren't taken exceptionally well by the players, Tuesday night is a moment for the Lancers to make an early statement, and, even against a Division III opponent, will give a taste of what to expect in 2019-20.



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