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The

ROTUNDA

Showing optimism for spring semester since 1920



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LAUREN QUEZADA | THE ROTUNDA

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In virtual SGA



Elwood's Cabinet tables along Brock Commons on November 3, 2020 to accept donations.

Elwood's Cabinet, vaccines

by Allison Turner | News Editor | @allisonkturner

In this week's Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, the senate met for the first time in the spring semester and received updates on organizations and COVID-19.

In Announcements, Freshman Class Representative Gabrielle Selhorst announced that Elwood's Cabinet opened this week, and the hours are Mondays and Thursdays from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

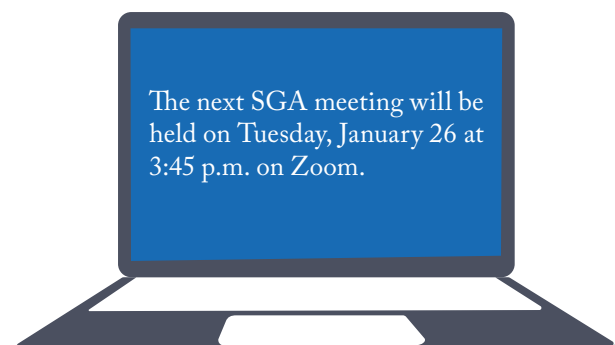
In Open Forum, concerns were brought up about COVID-19, such as why the numbers on the dashboard are so high. Associate Vice President for Wellness and Auxiliary Services Matt McGregor confirmed that most of the cases are students who are delaying their return to campus due to testing



positive.

In the Advisers' Report with Dean Cheryl Steele and Dr. Tim Pierson, it was announced that Longwood nursing students began administering vaccines to faculty and staff on campus this week.

In the Treasurer's Report with Claire Lesman, it was announced that budget sessions for the 2021-2022 academic year will begin in mid-February or early March and will be held on Zoom. More information will be coming soon.



GRAPHIC BY MELANIE LEWIS

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A COVID-19 college experience

Contributed by Trinity Carl

Freshman year can be a hard time for anybody going into college. From the stress of social life to the stress of passing your classes, everyone is a little anxious about their first year. The incoming Class of 2024 has had a little more hardships than most. They were the high school graduating Class of 2020. In March of 2020, schools all across Virginia shut down. By May 1, 2020, all of those seniors needed to make a decision about what college they would be attending in the fall with none of the resources they previously had.

For Araba Dennis, she chose to come to our lovely school: Longwood University. She is from Alexandria, Virginia and her major is Criminal Justice with a minor in Race and Ethics Studies. Araba stays in the Moss residential building and has no roommates, just suitemates. She loves that everything is really nice and brand new for her first time living alone.

Speaking with her, you could see her eyes light up when she speaks on her classes here. In her classes, she has learned so much and says that the reality of her field was better than her expectations. When she learned that most fields of Criminal Justice have

taser training, she says that although she is scared, “It is teaching me how to be strong. And I think I need that- learning to be strong will be good for me.”



Araba Dennis ('24) speaks in an interview about her freshman year experience at Longwood University during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“My first semester, it was really, it was good.” When asked about it, she loved her first semester. However, she is super excited to start her second semester as

a member of Sigma Kappa. Araba was one of the hundreds of girls that virtually participated in Spring 2021's Sorority Rush. She said it was very interesting and didn't really like that it was virtual. While I'm sure we can all understand why in-person rush would be more enjoyable, she was still able to find her home.

“I was really excited,” Araba says. “I was really surprised because it was really hard to choose at first.” When it came down to making the decision to submit bids, it was between Sigma Kappa and Alpha Gamma Delta. Luckily for Araba, she got her first pick of Sigma Kappa. She was super surprised and is super happy with her sisterhood. Being of color, she was worried she wouldn't get in. “I was scared that if I choose them, they might not choose me.” Overall, while it was ‘kinda boring at first’, she has grown to love not only Longwood, but Farmville and her sisterhood as well.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NYLON.COM



Rick Owens emerges with a signature collaboration

by Taiya Jarrett | Opinions Editor | @ItsTaySJ

Morphed with the aesthetic of ancient, subtle, yet sleek fashion re-emerges legendary fashion designer Rick Owens. On brand for his iconic avant-garde fashion, Owens has made his mark through clothing, footwear, accessories and even home décor that's deemed prehistoric. While his take within fashion has expanded throughout various industries, he's graced the fashion scene once again, yet with a collaboration in mind.

Debuting earlier this month at Owens Fall 2021 men's shoe, Owens revealed his upcoming footwear collaboration with lifestyle footwear brand Converse to create the DRKSHDW x Converse TURBODRK Chuck 70. The collaboration between the two is nothing new, just revamped.

"I've been referencing [Converse] for years, so when they suggested a collaboration, it seemed like a good, natural thing to do. And it kind of closed this poetic circle since

I've been referencing them for so long and they were cool with it," said Owens via WWD.com.

The unisex line itself combines the infamous Converse Chuck 70 with a new line of Owens. More so, the appeal of the sneaker captures Converse's All-Star signature black and white colorway high top look mixed with an edge of Owen, which is the added detail of a square-toe and an extended tongue on the front.

According to Owens via HYPEBEAST.com, "When I see something ubiquitous, I feel like I want to distort it. I don't know what that's about. Maybe it's some kind of adolescent rage. But that's one of the greatest appeals of the Chuck

Taylor All-Star Wearing Chuck Taylors, you align yourself with a generation that was experimental. There is a confident dynamic to the subculture."

The Converse x DRKSHDW line is expected to release in the fall of 2021 with a price ranging from \$165 to \$170, so be on the lookout for this latest arrival.

"I've been referencing [Converse] for years, so when they suggested a collaboration, it seemed like a good, natural thing to do."

— Rick Owens

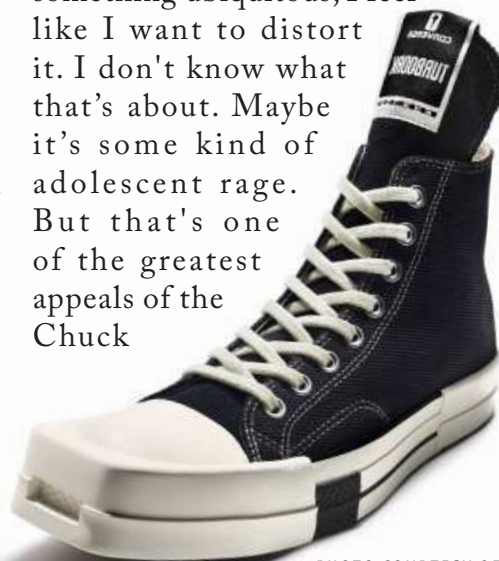


PHOTO COURTESY OF BESTLIFESTYLEBUZZ.COM

CARRIE BAILEY | THE ROTUNDA



Women's basketball "rebounding" after winless start

by Nick Robinson | Sports Editor | @longwoodrotunda

After the Longwood women's basketball team began their 2020-2021 campaign with an 0-4 start, things did not look good, but as the saying goes: it's a marathon, not a sprint. Since then, they have won eight out of eleven games and are currently riding a three-game winning streak. They also currently lead the Big South in scoring offense, free throw percentage, rebounding offense and blocked shots.

Coach Rebecca Tillett spoke on her team's mid-season turnaround. "We knew we had a really challenging non-conference schedule, so our focus as a staff and as a team was learning from the non-conference games because everything you do is preparation for conference play. Our players have a lot more confidence in the bank after their recent success."

Due to how the schedule panned out this season, the team was granted a two-week break in the middle of the year, with them last playing on January 16, and their next game not being until January 29. Tillett spoke on how the team is staying fresh and

keeping the momentum going during this time off. "This break in the middle of the season fits with 2020 and 2021. We plan to put something new in to increase player interest. We also plan to use this time to rest and recover. If you could pick a time to have it, this would be it."

Tillett went on to mention that there are several players, as well as moments, that have helped to drive the team's comeback. One such player was junior forward Akila Smith, and one such moment was her triple-double against Winthrop where she put up 14 points, 13 rebounds and 11 blocks. "Akila has remained very consistent in her ability to impact the game in so many ways. Her approach to the game and her serious mindset have been good for our team."

Smith spoke on her performance in which she broke a program record for blocks in a game. "It felt really good, especially to get the team win. I knew I got it towards the end of the fourth quarter and one of my teammates told me that I had a block and two rebounds to go. By then, I knew I was well on my way to

a triple-double."

Smith added her own perspective on the team's turnaround this season, attributing it to the team becoming more focused and executing the game plan. She also commented on her team's long break in the middle of the season and how they're staying sharp. "We practice every other day and go really hard in practice and we get in extra shots on our days off just to keep our bodies going."

Smith also provided her input on what the team can do to keep the momentum going once they resume play. "Just play defense. Take pride in our defense and how we do our offense and we will be unstoppable." The women's basketball team is set to take on Presbyterian at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, January 29 on ESPN+.



Interested in joining The Rotunda?
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