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In virtual SGA



THE ROTUNDA | FILE PHOTO

A meeting of the Student Finance Committee was held on September 22, 2016.

Elections, SFC

by Allison Turner | News Editor | @allisonkturner

In this week's virtual Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, the Senate discussed the upcoming elections and announced the date of the next Student Finance Committee (SFC) meeting.

In New Business, President Brandon Bowen announced the election timeline, which will begin in early March. More information, including the intent to run form, will be available soon.

In Open Forum, Vice President Payten Bovat shared updates from the dining hall, which included made-to-order stations opening and to-go boxes being moved back to the

cash registers at the front entrance.

In the Adviser's Report, Dean Cheryl Steele announced that the Citizen Leader Award nominations have been sent to everyone's Longwood emails. She encourages everyone to nominate their peers for the awards.

In the Treasurer's Report, Claire Lesman announced that there will be a Student Finance Committee (SFC) meeting on Thursday, February 11 at 4:00 p.m. on Zoom. She added that mandatory budget information sessions will begin on February 16, and organizations should RSVP on Lancer Link.

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The next SGA meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16 at 3:45 p.m. on Zoom.

GRAPHIC BY MELANIE LEWIS

Avid Longwood readers honor Black History Month

by Victoria Thompson | Features Staff | @longwoodrotunda

Now that it is the middle of February, people everywhere are finding new and unique ways to honor and remember Black History Month. Whether it be talking about a historical figure or simply putting a hashtag related to the celebration on social media, honoring the culture of Black History Month comes in a variety of forms.

On Thursday, February 11, the Longwood University English department held an African American Read-In via Zoom. At this event, students and faculty read from and shared opinions about their favorite pieces written by African American authors.

While African American Read-Ins like this have been done before through the National Council of Teachers of English, this was the first time the NCTE specifically aligned with Longwood for this event.

Dr. Jennifer McConnell, Associate Professor of English Education, was the hostess of the read-in; this is her first year teaching at Longwood.

Despite hosting the event, McConnell emphasized the open-mic structure among the people in attendance, encouraging people to chime in whenever they wanted.

When asked what sort of role that literature plays in relation to Black History Month, McConnell stated, "I think because literature is so deeply tied to our identity, we represent ourselves in the pages. We see the experiences of others in the pages, and the stories we tell define us as people, so to use black literature to celebrate Black History Month, I think, opens up just the range of potential that we have in stories. There is no one story; there is no one narrative."

McConnell opened the virtual read-in by reading a poem entitled "Instructions on Listening to The Trees" by Mahogany L. Browne.

Several of the professors and students

in attendance read their chosen pieces out loud as the event went on.

Next, Sasha Johnson, Title IX Coordinator for the Office of Student Conduct and Integrity, read "Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey Now" by Maya Angelou, which is a poem that revolves around the complexities of what being a woman entails.

This piece led to some discussion about the complexities of racial and gender identity as well as how Angelou's writing affects her image as a writer.

In addition, Maya Angelou's work and her impact as a writer was brought up multiple times throughout the read-in. Towards the end, a student named Ashley Connelly read "Phenomenal Woman" by Maya Angelou, a well-known piece that focuses attention on female power.

Apart from this, almost every person in attendance shared their personal favorites from African American authors, which involved a variety of poetic subject matter.

For instance, Dr. Magill, chair of the English and Modern Languages department, read a poem containing both futuristic and historical images called "Sci-Fi" by Tracy K. Smith.

At one point when one student's

internet connection was not working at its best, McConnell shared a reading of "Depression Is" by Joseph Solomon, which was shown through a YouTube video.

This spoken word poem had imagery that mixed modern pop culture references to people like LeBron James to intricate details about the struggle of being depressed.

In terms of the future of black literature, McConnell mentioned, "I would say there is more representation, but we need to do more...Every book is just one book. As a teacher, I very much want to instill that recognition that every book is just one book..."

We will never have all the stories, and in terms of diversity in literature, there are large strides that have been made...but we're not done yet."

When thinking of future read-ins, McConnell hopes this could become a student-lead event

and has considered the possibility of centering the African American Read-In around one specific text.

No matter what, celebrating Black History Month helps African American voices bring people together as a community and learn more about the culture.



COURTESY OF WWW.VHV.RS

Baby Phat brings the nostalgia back through a jewelry collection

by Taiya Jarrett | Opinions Editor | @ItsTaySJ

Creating a nostalgic atmosphere, emerges Kimora Lee Simmons first capsule jewelry collection under Baby Phat. Yes, the aesthetically pleasing brand is back with its signature stamp still featuring Simmons daughters Ming Lee Simmons and Aoki Lee Simmons.

The collection consists of four 18K gold pieces ranging from gold chain chokers and hoop earrings with the brand's iconic signature to rhinestone-studded cat earrings.

According to Simmons via Nylon Magazine, "Jewelry was always iconic for Baby Phat, and our fans have been begging for us to bring back the jewelry since we relaunched two years ago. We hear you! Ming, Aoki and I designed this first drop to be the quickest way to add a little glam and attitude to your look — whether you're WFH in a tracksuit or headed to a night out."

The streetwear brand re-emerged two years ago with its classic velour track suits and studded wear. "We've spent so much of our lives with this brand — it's so cool to bring a fresh approach and to be able to create something for how women and girls dress today. Athleisure got too basic — style got diluted — this is about refreshing the streetwear our mom invented," said Ming Simmons via Nylon Magazine.

The collection ranges from \$45-\$50 and is currently available for purchase at Babyphat.com.



COURTESY OF BABYPHAT.COM



Longwood Baseball set to take the field for the first time in almost a year

by Nick Robinson | Sports Editor | @longwoodrotunda

On March 11, 2020, the Longwood Baseball team lost to UNC Central by a score of 14-5. Little did they know, that would be the last game they would play in the 2020 season. Shortly after this game was played, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the country harder than any home run. For months, the team wondered if the 2021 season was even a possibility, but then just weeks ago, the schedule was finalized and the team could finally prepare to suit up once more.

Head coach Ryan Mau voiced his excitement for the season opener, which will take place on Friday, February 19, against The Citadel. "It's been too long. Having our season ripped away before it even got started was difficult. We have played a lot of inter-squad scrimmages all fall to make up for the lost time. To tee it up with another jersey on the other side of the field is something that we're super excited about and eager to do."

Mau went on to talk about how he

kept the team focused during this extra long offseason, not knowing what the future would hold. "When you lose something like that as suddenly as we did, it gives you a lot of perspective. To have that happen was difficult, but eye-opening. A lot of our guys were able to see that you don't know what tomorrow brings, so you have to take advantage of the opportunities that the day presents."

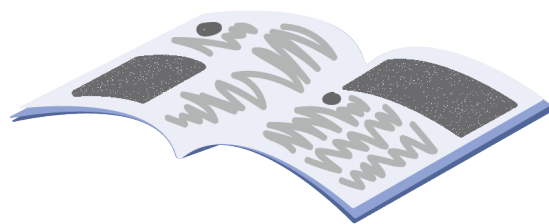
Longwood will be fielding a very young squad this season, with only eight upperclassmen on a 39-man roster. One of those upperclassmen is Junior Outfielder Jack Schnell. In 2020, Schnell led the team in RBIs with 11, as well as batting .230 with three doubles and a home run before the pandemic cut the season short. Mau said that Schnell "has the potential to be one of the best hitters in the conference" for the 2021 season.

Schnell spoke on his role as an upperclassman on such a young team. "My role as a leader is to make sure all of the guys have the right mindset,

whether we are at home or on the road, and to calm their nerves, especially these young guys who didn't even get to finish their high school seasons. Going from high school to college is a big jump, and so I'm trying to make sure that they are calm and that their minds are in the right place."

Schnell was one of many athletes around the world who had to find out how to stay in shape during the pandemic. He shared what it was like for him. "It was tough in the beginning. I'm from New York, so the pandemic was really bad up there. I was in my backyard and my little brother was throwing me balls. I would watch a lot of old game tapes to keep myself mentally there."

With the light at the end of the tunnel finally here, the team prepares for a three-game series with The Citadel starting this Friday, before returning to Buddy Bolding Stadium on February 23 against UNC Central.



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