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Sunday evening fire in Arc

By Katie Windlemeece

On Sunday evening, April 19, around 6:30 p.m., resident assistants of ARC Residence Hall returned to find haze and smoke in the air of the lobby on the first floor.

“When the police and fire department arrived, they found that an air handler unit had had an electrical malfunction in the storage closet, causing a small fire to have broken out,” said Josh Blakely, the director of Residence Life with Residential and Commuter Life. The resident assistants followed protocol, which led to two building evacuations and no one was hurt.

“There was a lot of smoke everywhere. You could smell it heavily in your room. So, they had to evacuate the building because of it. Thank God that the firefighters and policemen were here to locate the issue because it could have been worse,” said Sherrale Lamb, a first floor resident of ARC.

There was not much damage done to the building itself. The damaged was just confined to the storage unit and no student belongings were damaged.

“It (the fire) was discovered very quickly and by the time the fire and police department got there, the fire was going out. It was a malfunction, and I don’t think there will be any further investigation,” said Blakely.
“It’s really a tremendous opportunity to put Longwood on the national or the international map. There’s really almost nothing like it in the world, in terms of the eyes of tens of millions, hundreds of millions of people being in one place for one moment,” said Justin Pope, the Chief of Staff, regarding the university’s application to host a 2016 presidential debate.

Longwood’s recent application for a 2016 presidential debate came about as an idea from President Reveley. The application and proposal were submitted to the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) at the end of March and consisted of detailed information on topics such as facilities, telecommunications, transportation, city services and security.

The application fee itself cost $8,000 and is non-refundable. According to the CPD application, this fee covers “administrative costs, a pre-selection site survey and technical evaluations.” This fee does not cover any additional surveys prior to site selection.

If chosen to host the debate, the university would be required to pay a fee of $1,950,000 to the CPD. This payment would cover both direct and indirect debate costs. This cost does not include goods and services outlined in the guidelines, or other items listed in Section 9: Finances of the application, which the university would be required to pay. This list of items was not made available in the copy of the application binder provided to The Rotunda.

Longwood is one of 16 applicants for the 2016 presidential debates. Among those applicants are 12 other universities, two community colleges and two cities. Some of the other universities include West Virginia University, Belmont University and Wright State University. Of these 16 applicants, three will be chosen to host a presidential debate and one will be chosen to host a vice presidential debate.

Willett Hall is the proposed venue to hold a debate and is the largest open space in any building on campus. The hall holds a gymnasium space of 17,658 square feet, which exceeds the requirement of 17,000 square feet. According to the proposal, the university consents to renting seating and lifts as well as the installation of temporary carpeting throughout the venue.

The proposed venue for the media filing center is the Health and Fitness Center which is 19,332 square feet. This is 668 square feet short of the 20,000 square feet requirement. However, according to the proposal, additional spaces within the HFC would bring the space to the requirement. The university would also rent the necessary number of tables and chairs for approximately 700 journalists, as well as a CATV television system with additional monitors.

One of the additional requirements is the need for at least 3,000 hotel rooms in the general area.

“There’s no doubt that they’re going to have to be a little bit flexible about the hotels. They have been in the past, and I think we make a pretty good case for asking them to be in the future. If they are ever going to have it in some place that’s not a big city, they’re just going to have to be,” said Pope.

The proposal includes information on three hotels in Farmville as well as others which will be completed before the debates and hotels in the Richmond area.

“I think we’ve put together a proposal that works for them, and I hope they will be understanding that we have some feasible options for that,” added Pope.

The university has already been in contact with the town of Farmville, the Farmville Police Department and other service companies such as Shentel and Century Link.

“So one of the really great things is how enthusiastic everyone has been that we’ve brought this up to. We contacted the town manager and the mayor, and without the slightest hesitation, they understood what a great thing this would be for Farmville,” said Pope.

Letters from Governor Terry McAuliffe, Farmville Town Manager Gerry Spates, Longwood Chief of Police Robert Beach and others stated their endorsement for the university’s application.

“It’s a really exciting thing for Longwood to be a part of. I don’t think applying for a debate is necessarily the right thing for every university, but I think we looked at it really carefully and concluded that it would be a good fit for Longwood,” said Pope.
According to documents provided by Longwood athletics, the department’s total operating revenue in 2013-2014 was $9,774,504. Of that revenue, $8,416,055, roughly 86 percent, is solely generated from student fees.

Those fees funding athletics has steadily increased in recent years, from $6,944,755 in 2011, to $7,873,144 in 2012 to the highest total in school history last year.

Overall, the department expenses totaled $9,650,604 at the end of the last academic year, putting Longwood athletics in the black with a surplus of $123,900.

The athletics department's reports for 2013-2014 breakdown the student fee distribution with $1.23 million allocated for men's basketball, $895,654 for women's basketball, and $3.1 million split among the school's other 12 remaining sports, as well as $3.18 million to non-program specific revenues.

While the student fee distribution changes from year to year, the men's basketball program has seen a significant increase in budget allocation, from $897,092 in assigned student fees in 2011, to $1.08 million in 2012, to $1.23 million last year.

The men's basketball program’s allocated increase of $146,986 between 2012-2013 to 2013-2014 coincides with the arrival of Head Men's Basketball Coach Jayson Gee.

Recently named the Fellowship of Christian Athletes’ Barnabas Award winner, Gee is 19-47 (8-26 in Big South Conference play) in two years at Longwood.

A review of his contract shows Gee himself is directly responsible for helping to boost departmental revenue and, if he meets his contractually negotiated goal, his program stands to benefit.

Outside of the $8.4 million from student fees, remaining funds are also raised from contributions to athletics or to a specific program, but a total of over half a million dollars, $507,513, of the departmental revenue comes from monies associated with game guarantees.

Men's basketball brought in $470,000 in Gee's first year on the job, nearly 93 percent of the entire department's game-guarantee revenue.

As part of The Rotunda’s documents request, contracts were provided for the head coaches of the men's basketball, women's basketball, baseball and softball programs.

In those contracts, only men's and women’s basketball directly referenced game guarantee scheduling and men's basketball was the only program with a coach-controlled fund stemming from that revenue.

Game guarantee money falls on page 3 of Gee's contract under Duties and Responsibilities and is listed as ‘Scheduling.’ It reads, "The Coach must work in collaboration with the AD to develop competitive game schedules designed to reach the NCAA post-season tournament, secure a minimum of $300,000 annually in game guarantees and meet other program priorities.

It is understood that $50,000 of the $300,000 will be used at the discretion of the coach for the benefit of the Men's Basketball team."

While Director of Athletics Troy Austin has final approval of the scheduling, the monies are Gee's to spend after meeting the annual minimum, which was surpassed by $710,000 in 2013-2014.

Ken Copeland, named Longwood's vice president of administration and finance in July 2012, said spending of that $50,000 "would have to be at the discretion of the athletics department who ultimately answers to the president."

While university representatives state that oversight is implied, it's not reflected in the actual language of the contract.

Copeland said, "This contract was negotiated between the athletics department and the attorney general's office. Most other employee contracts are initiated by the human resources office."

The Rotunda requested to interview Gee to specifically understand how he personally managed and spent the $50,000 discretionary fund from 2013-2014. The athletics department responded to the interview request by asking all related questions be provided to a representative in an email.

Austin, whom has led Longwood athletics for the past ten years, responded with an emailed statement on behalf of the department.

In his statement, Austin noted money generated from guarantee games is "redistributed across the entire athletics department to offset various operating expenses for all of our athletics programs."

Austin’s statement called the men's basketball guarantee game discretionary fund “common practice in college athletics to include language in a head coach's contract to stipulate that a portion of those men's basketball game guarantees be earmarked specifically for the men's basketball program."

It is within Coach Gee’s discretion to decide where those funds are allocated within the men's basketball program, but they are typically spent on operating costs such as travel, lodging and meals for student-athletes, equipment, professional development and recruiting expenses.”

Copeland stated the language in Gee's contract itself does provide Longwood “checks and balances” when evaluating funds such as the one in question, “While this says at the discretion of the coach, there is not an end around for a member of our coaching staff that they can get reimbursed for travel other than following protocol.”

In his emailed statement, Austin said all discretionary funds “are considered state revenue and are subject to Virginia's specific purchasing guidelines for state institutions.”

However, Copeland, Longwood's chief financial officer, said game guarantee revenue is not treated as state revenue and therefore would not be held to related purchasing guidelines.

“The game guarantee money goes into a local account, which is differentiated between a state account because it has no strings attached to it as far as the state is concerned, because we aren't charging a student for that money.”

Copeland continued, “Because a game guarantee has no student revenue stream associated with it, it is held in a local account and is not subject to some of the same regulations from the department of accounting.”

The Rotunda will be hosting all related Freedom of Information Act requested documents on therotundaonline.com.
SGA Brief

SGA LONGWOOD

BY KIRA ZIMNEY SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR/ EVENTS COORDINATOR @KNZIMNEY

SGA’s final meeting of the semester went over SFC bylaws, and making adjustments and approvals of changes to the bylaws. A motion to add RCL to the exception in the bylaws allowing seven members to attend conferences in an unfriendly amendment failed.

Re-allocation of $1,667.80 to the Graduate Student Advisory Council passed; they asked for funds to cater the graduate commencement due to a higher amount of people attending than expected.

Further re-allocations passed, one of $1,500 passed to Alternative Spring Break, which will fund conference registration fees. $1,108 to Mortar Board also passed for conference funding, a flight trip and new lederhosen. $1,076 was allocated to Phi Beta Lambda to fund hotel fees for a National Conference in Chicago.

A $10,000 allocation passed to the Senior Class Council for a Spirit Rock after much discussion regarding costs for moving a rock located in Lancer Park to another, more central location on-campus. As a senior gift, the rock would be moved for seniors and students of all organizations to paint and color the rock as a future Longwood tradition. The Senior Class already raised $5,000 for the Spirit Rock placement. Moving a rock that is already on-campus to a more central location would be similar in cost to buying a new rock. A designated spot for the rock has yet to be determined, however, it was suggested to be located near Iler field.

A motion passed to allocate $2,767.10 to SGA for their Faculty versus Staff Health and Wellness Initiative. Students and participants will be asked to collect data and report it to be published in research. The funding costs would cover fruit and refreshments, water bottles, staff uniforms and pedometers. The money funded was $2,766.10. This event will be a fitness challenge engaging the spirit of the community in a campus wide event in which all students are able to participate.

Presentation of the ROW award was given to the New President of SGA, Constance Garner. Old Historian Ellen Kensy motioned to approve the constitution of Gamma Psi allowing them to officially be on-campus. Dr. Tim Pierson congratulated the fraternity for their hard work in the steps taken to becoming an on-campus fraternity.

Financial Column

BY JUSTIN PARKER AND MANNY DWYER

The end of the semester is drawing near, and as this year at Longwood is drawing to a close, a new part of the year begins. Summertime brings new financial goals and challenges, along with unpredictability. We would like to share with you what to look out for over the next couple of months, along with some of our financial advice for the summertime as well.

Here are some things to look out for in the financial marketplace as the summer rolls around:

Oil Prices – Oil has been a hot topic recently. Oil prices have been dropping over the last couple of months, but the big question on everybody’s mind is, “Is this the bottom?” This drop in prices has been influential over some stocks such as Haliburton and other oil companies. Question is, if prices are to go up soon over the summer, would now be the time to buy? Oil prices have historically gone up during the summer months, so it begs the question whether or not history will repeat itself this summer.

The Dollar – This year the dollar has gained a lot of strength. This will be something to watch over the summer as well. The value of the dollar can affect not only individuals, but corporations as well. Domestic businesses that engage in international trade open themselves up to exchange rate risks and the value of the dollar has a big impact on firms who go international. When the value of the U.S. dollar rises, it allows for both businesses and individuals to seize the opportunity to buy foreign goods that usually would cost more for a cheaper price. With talks of interest rates potentially rising this summer, it would be smart to watch how the value of the dollar moves compared to foreign currencies over the next few months.

Financial advice for the summertime:

Saving- This is something that every college student should try to maximize during the summertime. If possible, try to find a job during the time you are away from school. There are 116 days during our summer break, which is adequate time to make some money and to save. If you were able to save just $10 per day, you would come back with $1160 at the start of the fall semester. If at all possible, I would suggest saving at least 20 percent of all your money earned, because the school year is long and money dwindles very quickly while at school.

If you made $10 an hour and worked 40 hour work weeks for the 15 weeks we are gone for summer, before taxes, you have the opportunity to make $6000 over the summer. Our suggestion is to put a designated amount into a savings account every time you get a paycheck, that way you can automatically put it away and not spend it until you return to school.

Creating a budget:

One way to keep being financially responsible during the semester is to create and stick to a budget. When creating a budget, it’s good to map out all of your expenses ahead of time and then stick to what you laid out for yourself.

So when you get back for next semester, sit down and plan out what you think you need to spend each week and match that to how much you saved over the summer. Once you have figured out how much you can spend each week, divide it between the categories of expenses you have such as groceries, gas etc. This is a great way to ensure you are not recklessly spending your hard earned savings on things that are unnecessary.

The best advice we can give to you about budgeting is that you need to stick to it. It can be easy to create and stick to a budget for a couple of weeks, but what will really make your money last is making sure you are being consistent throughout the semester!

Our concluding thoughts for the summer would be to be conscious and aware of what is going on in the economy and financial marketplace. There are a lot of things that are bound to happen over the next 116 days, so being aware of what is going on around you can help you best prepare for the future. Be sure to save and to start preparing for next year. For all you graduating seniors, we hope some of the articles we have written in our short time will be beneficial to you once you depart. Have a great summer Lancers, and can’t wait to see you all next year!
Rest in peace AJ
Longwood hosts vigil for first year student

BY PAYTON CONWAY
FEATURES STAFF

Tears were cried, hugs were embraced and numerous kind words were spoken as family, friends and fellow Lancers gathered together to mourn the loss of AJ Hadsell.

A candlelight vigil was held in the Health and Wellness Center for AJ, who went missing on March 2 during spring break and never returned. With AJ’s club softball jersey resting against the Longwood podium, multiple people spoke about her, including a few teammates and President Reveley. The emotional service started with Dr. Amanda McKinney from the Counseling Center, reminding students that there is no correct way to grieve and that counseling is available.

AJ was remembered as sweet, caring, kind, “a breath of fresh air” and always having a positive outlook no matter the situation. Jen Ryan, a member of the club softball team, remembered her as an amazing softball player, but above all, being there for anyone who needed her. “Anything anyone ever needed, she was right there. If you needed advice, AJ was a listening ear. If you needed an idea for something, AJ was right there, offering ideas,” Ryan stated.

Later in her speech, Ryan asked the students to appreciate those close to them while they still had the chance. “I would like everyone in honor of AJ, to tell someone you love how much they mean to you. You never know if that could be the last time you see them.”

“AJ was more than just a resident, she was a friend,” said AJ’s resident assistant and Noah Lovelady, who remembers her as being warm-hearted. “I’ll never forget my talks with AJ, whether they be about life, about school or just joking around… I am extremely honored to have known her for the short amount of time I did. She has made one of the biggest impacts on my life here at Longwood and it’s a shame to see her time cut so short.”

After the speakers finished, “When I Get Where I’m Going” played for a moment for silent reflection. When the vigil concluded, members of the softball team embraced AJ’s mother, Jen Hadsell, and gave her AJ’s jersey, signed by the members of the softball team, with the words: “Fly High.”

Sarah Arboleda, another one of AJ’s teammates later commented, “We’re really thankful for the time we got with AJ. It might have been short, but it definitely impacted all of us… She really touched us. She’ll never be forgotten and she’ll always be one of our teammates.”

President Reveley addresses the student body with words of remembrance and comfort as they cope with the loss of the Lancer AJ Hadsell.
Miles for Melissa

Students participate in walk to celebrate the life of graduate

BY PAYTON CONWAY
FEATURES STAFF

A bright, warm and sunny day welcomed over a hundred people who decided to come out and walk for a cause.

Hosted by Alpha Gamma Delta, Miles for Melissa had students come out to donate and pledge to not drink and drive in the memory of one of Longwood’s own, Melissa Haislip.

To start the walk off, students gathered near the steps of the Student Union to hear Katie Stewart, a sister of Alpha Gamma Delta, and Vanessa Haislip, Melissa’s mother, tell the story of her daughter.

Haislip, a member of Alpha Gamma Delta, was a part of Longwood’s inaugural nursing class. On June 18, 2014, on her way home from work at Mercy Hospital, Haislip was killed in a car accident by a drunk driver. The driver’s blood alcohol level was twice the legal limit. He also had cocaine and marijuana in his system. Haislip was only 23.

Friends and family remember Haislip as kind, fun loving and having a passion for helping people. According to Stewart, a sophomore and a member of Alpha Gamma Delta’s fundraiser committee, Haislip’s death has greatly impacted not only her family, but also the Longwood community. “It’s (Melissa’s death) impacted our chapter; it’s impacted the nursing program and it’s definitely impacted her friends and family and so we wanted to put on an event to really give back and show the love and support we have for her. So we created Miles for Melissa, just a quick walk around campus, just to raise money for her scholarship fund, which (will be) given to a nursing student every single year.”

Though Stewart didn’t know her personally, she saw Haislip as a model of inspiration. “She was one of those people who lived her life everyday to the fullest...She was crazy and fun loving, but she really did have such a kind, passionate heart and to see someone so wonderful like that, go so soon has really encouraged me to be as kind as possible everyday, to live everyday to the fullest, because we really aren’t guaranteed another day.”

When asked what she hoped the outcome of event would be, Stewart answered, “I hope it raises awareness for people to not drink and drive. Call a friend, walk home, crawl home like Mrs. Haislip said, but just really stressing the importance of how dangerous it is to drink and drive.”

The event raised $600 dollars, all of which will go to a scholarship fund for a senior nursing student all in Haislip’s name. According to Vanessa Haislip, the scholarship helps keep Melissa’s dream alive.

“Melissa wanted to do so many things with her teaching degree,” Haislip states, “She was very proud of being in the inaugural nursing class at Longwood. We hope this scholarship will help another nursing student achieve their dream.”

Stewart hopes to make Miles for Melissa an annual event, as well as grow in popularity on-campus. Vanessa Haislip felt blessed to see so much support come to the campus. “Melissa’s sorority sisters have taken us in as their family. As Melissa’s parents, we are so afraid that people will forget her, but the Longwood community still continues to show support for us and Melissa. I know they will not forget her.”

During a Chi walk on Wednesday, April 15, 2015, the date for the Chi burning was announced to be April 22, 2015 at 10 p.m. on Iler Field. (Bottom right) Nostalgic image from the 2014 Chi burning where the identities of the members were revealed and student leaders were commended for their service.
Faculty Spotlight

By Emily Haswell, A&E Editor

Lisa Edwards-Burrs is just finishing up her first full year as an assistant voice professor here at Longwood University. She is no stranger to life as a professor as she also taught voice at Virginia State University. She describes her teaching style as “direct but supportive, cheerful but firm, critical but kind.”

Edwards-Burrs is relatively new to the Longwood faculty, however she says it has already been a very rewarding experience. “I have met some parents of a few of my students who performed Senior Recitals and received very positive comments about their experiences in my Studio. That was very fulfilling.”

However what some may not know about Edwards-Burrs is all the unique experiences the professor has had within her own career as a performer. She even had the unique opportunity to perform in an opera called “Vanquished” which was written by her brother-in-law. However, she says that one of her proudest achievements is seeing her two children choose to make music as well.

She says it has already been a very rewarding experience. “I have been fortunate to sing in many places and for many occasions that have been meaningful to me and, I hope, to others (which is the most important part). It is also gratifying that two of my children are musicians. My daughter, Naima, is a Violinist and my youngest son, Morgan, is studying Jazz Guitar at VCU.”

The Magic Whip

By Ryan Quigley, A&E Staff

All throughout the 90s, there was a constant debate on which Britpop band, Oasis or Blur, was the superior. While Oasis released hit singles like “Live Forever,” “Slide Away” and most importantly, “Wonderwall,” Blur displayed their indie twist on songs such as “Girls & Boys,” “For Tomorrow” and the stadium rocker, “Song 2.” It can be argued that it was a tie between the two millennial bands, but after the release of Blur’s “The Magic Whip,” the band’s eighth studio album, Blur may very well be taking the lead.

Recorded in Hong Kong’s Avon Studios, “The Magic Whip” is the first Blur album since 2003’s “Think Tank.” That’s a long time for a band to be on hiatus, but the members have stayed busy. While guitarist Graham Coxon has been successful with his solo work, Damon Albarn has seen even more success, being the maestro of Gorillaz and releasing his first solo album “Everyday Robots” just last spring. The 12-year hibernation was a lengthy one, but after listening to “The Magic Whip,” it’s as if they never disbanded in the first place.

Right from the get go, “The Magic Whip” gets you out of your seat playing air guitar. “Lonesome Street,” the album’s third single, is one of the most 90s-sounding songs since, well, the 90s. “Lonesome Street” is an immediate refreshment to anyone longing for the days of Blur’s earlier work from “Modern Life Is Rubbish” or “Parklife,” the band’s second and third albums, respectively, as Coxon aggressively pumps out thick punches of guitar and subtle hints of synth sprinkle throughout the upbeat tune, which add the same bit of flavor that made Blur the powerhouse they were in the 90s.

Skipping to the album’s fourth track, “Ice Cream Man” which contains subtle nuances of electronic bursts bubbling all throughout while “I Broadcast” adds more pinches of wiggly electronic tones to “The Magic Whip,” soon transforming into a driving-to-the-beach-with-the-windows-down type of tune as Albarn asks, “The apparitions of another prodigal night, right?”

Later comes “My Terracotta Heart,” which sounds similar to Albarn’s solo work. The song is an open letter to Graham Coxon, detailing the hardship that came along when the band initially began growing apart. “Seemed like a breath of fresh air back in the summertime, When we were more like brothers, that was years ago,” Albarn’s somber monotone voice sings in the dark, melancholy balad. “The Magic Whip” is a blast from the past. While listening to Blur’s long awaited eighth record, it was hard to not envision a 1995 version of myself driving an old Toyota Corolla on my way back home from college for the summer.

While songs like “New World Towers” or “Pyongyang” aren’t quite as memorable as “Lonesome Street” or “Ice Cream Man,” they are still solid tunes that will undoubtedly please the diehard Blur fans. Whether you are a new listener or not, there is something here for you. “The Magic Whip” expresses a variety of different moods: sad, happy, excited, relaxed, they’re all here and it’s an adventure going through all of them.

My rating: 8/10

Summer Pop Culture

-Concluded from page 1

Concert Tours:

Taylor Swift: The 1989 World Tour, starting May 20- T-Swift herself will be launching her new tour this summer playing popular jams such as “Blank Space” and “Style” to the live concert stage. It will start in the most random of places, Bossier City, La., and the tour will play in many arenas and stadiums in five countries. Singer Vance Joy will open for her along with the cool sister band Haim.

Near here, she will be making stops in Charlotte, N.C. and Raleigh, N.C.

Lana Del Rey: The Endless Summer Tour, starting May 7- Lana Del Rey’s old-school sound and exotic concert performances will take you back in time. She is kicking off a new concert tour that all the old Hollywood glamour lovers must see. She will be coming to Bristow, Va. on June 11 at Jiffy Lube Live and on June 15 to Charlotte, N.C. at the PNC Music Pavilion to rock out with the one and only, Courtney Love.
Looking back over the year

Senior editorial from former news editor

BY TRAVIS LYLES
FORMER NEWS EDITOR

What a run it has been. When I started out as a sports writer for The Rotunda in 2012, I never could have imagined that my final year would have been this special.

I made the jump to news last spring and never looked back. I am extremely proud of the topics we have covered this past year and of the overall excellent reporting we have printed.

This year has been a wild one for news pertaining to Longwood, perhaps unlike any other. From troubles involving certain student-athletes, the strides Longwood has made with Title IX, the rape kit saga, norovirus outbreak, hate speech concerns, the university’s ongoing unsealed deal with the Moton Museum and the heartbreaking stories of Riley and AJ, this year has no doubt been frenetic.

We have made unprecedented strides as a staff this past year. Our social media presence is at an all-time high, and people look to The Rotunda for information on key issues.

The Rotunda has broken major stories a ton of times this past year, reported on tough topics and built relationships with key sources in and around the Farmville area.

People now care what The Rotunda has to say, something that probably hasn’t always been true.

We grew our Twitter presence by hundreds of followers, and our Facebook page now has over 2,300 likes. Our website is a go-to for many people in the community and now sees thousands of views per month.

As this senior class leaves campus, the hard work starts for the next group, carrying the progress forward. I know Tori, Bri and other news staff will do their job to the best of their abilities and hold each other to the same standard that has been established. Just have confidence in yourself and don’t be afraid to ask hard, thought provoking questions.

The Rotunda now has a vital responsibility to respond quickly and effectively to situations in the community and offer intelligence on topics people might be ignorant to.

The Rotunda must be a watchdog not only over Longwood University, but the Farmville area as well.

When I look back on my time with The Rotunda, I will always remember it for the learning experiences.

We jump into journalism, one of the hardest things to do well, and often do it well. We stay up late hours every Tuesday night to put out a good product, and we learn and grow together as a team.

I think The Rotunda has grasped its role in the community, especially over the past year, and I hope to see it continue to grow and break major news stories.

I have faith in The Rotunda, it will continue to be a vessel for information and tell the truth early and often.

The final year, a new beginning

Senior editorial from former copy editor

BY ASHLEY BENDER
FORMER COPY EDITOR

My time at Longwood University has been full of new friends, albums of memories and essays out the wazoo. My high school friend, then college roommate, Alexandra McMahon, has seen me through all four years of my college education. She has helped me through underdeveloped theses, ramblings about significance and complicated story lines that I just can’t help but write and rewrite and rewrite for workshops as an English major and Creative Writing concentration enthusiast.

In May of 2014, my boyfriend of over six years proposed to me in the Bahamas during a family vacation. After I graduate in May 2015, I will be marrying my best friend and other half on October 17, 2015 in my home town in Pennsylvania.

I joined The Rotunda at the end of my junior year in April of 2014 as Assistant Copy Editor, then soon took over the Copy Editor position in September and have lived the life of hair pulling editing, late nights and crisp printed papers ever since. I’ve learned a lot about the nature of joining together as journalists to create something inspirational and informative for people to read and be proud of. This opportunity has allowed me to gain experience with editing and working with others as a team to create an end product.

This year has been an exciting one as I plan my wedding, with the help of my family and bridesmaids, three of which are also Longwood seniors, Alexandra McMahon, Lena March and Natasha Becker. My year with The Rotunda has brought me closer to some amazing people who truly have a passion for what they do, and what they do deserves a round of applause.

It has been an interesting ride and a great finale to my college career. Good luck to the new editorial board, to all Longwood seniors soon approaching their big day and to the rest of you Longwood students out there, have no fear, you are amazing to be here and I hope you all prosper in your endeavors.
When I stepped onto Longwood’s campus back in 2011, I had no idea there was a school paper. I mean, I could not find a table at the involvement fair, nor had anyone I talked to seem to know it existed. Had it not been for one lone Rotunda editor bringing in the most recent edition into my Biology lab, I probably would have remained clueless (and possibly thinking elves passed out the papers). So I owe a lot of thanks to that Rotunda editor, for answering the questions of a very confused freshman—if she hadn’t, I probably would have had a different college experience than the one I have come to enjoy.

I probably would still be in my original major, having no idea what I wanted to do and fearing the future. Yeah, the future’s still scary and I’ve changed career paths so many times, from being President of the United States to being a firefighter, but the only sure decision I’ve made was to be born. Thanks to The Rotunda, I’m leaving Longwood with a degree and a major I’ve enjoyed every step of the way.

Working on The Rotunda taught me how much I enjoy writing in a professional sense. At first, I thought I would only write one article and then that’d be it. Well, there’s something about seeing your name in print that just brings a person back for more—that and the free pizza. The Rotunda was where I gained friends, built skills that will serve me well for entering the workforce, but also allowed me to have fun while doing it.

Sure, there were some ups and downs. What person hasn’t had them with their place of work? But that just made the whole experience worthwhile. I wouldn’t trade the all nighters and the frustration over late articles or mistaken bylines for anything, because in four years, it’s not going to matter. Yeah, I may have hated being in it back then, but now, all I can say is thanks for the time management skills!

The Rotunda helped me step out of my comfort zone when I was elected Business Manager. I was good at writing articles, but the only experience I had with the business aspect was going on outings to sell ads in high school and those turned into basically school-sanctioned trips to the mall. The paper took a girl who ran from the very thought of having to do math and turned her into someone who successfully created a budget for the organization without crying in fear.

To the seniors on The Rotunda who are graduating with me, I have to just say it’s been a blast working with you and I hope our paths cross again in the future. To those who get to stay on, it’s also been a blast. Maybe next year, one of you will answer the questions of a confused freshman looking for an organization to join.

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**Bye Rotunda - it’s been a blast**

Senior editorial from former business manager Monica Newell

BY MONICA NEWELL

FORMER BUSINESS MANAGER

**My time: I love you**

Senior editorial from former sports editor, Rotunda Studios producer and editor in chief pro tem

BY NICK CONIGLIARO

FORMER SPORTS EDITOR

I’m thankful for having such an amazing opportunity to work with so many awesome people through my time with The Rotunda, and I’ll never forget any of the lessons I learned. It’s been a wild ride for sure with ups and downs around every corner, from working till 4 a.m. on Tuesday nights, to covering the Big South Tournament for Longwood basketball. I wouldn’t trade any of them in for anything else, maybe a Lamborghini, but that’s close to it.

There’s a few things I would’ve done differently, but overall, I’m truly happy with the time I spent alongside Tori (Walker) and K Bal (Kayla Baldino) putting the paper together, writing alongside Travis (Lyles) and Halle (Parker), messing around in meetings with anyone who was dumb enough to sit next to me and talking/joking around with our advisers about life more than my actual writing.

I’m truly excited to see what the future has for The Rotunda, I know it’s going to be way better this coming year with Tori’s amazing leadership and Halle running the sports section (which she’ll definitely revolutionize and make immensely better), along with the other new editors who are going to knock it out of the park this coming year.

Overall, my final thought, as the old man senior, for all of it is a huge and grateful, THANK YOU! Without the help and support of the people on The Rotunda and our advisers (Lauren Karidis, Jeff Halliday and Michael Mergen) I would have no real knowledge or confidence in the journalism field. It’s going to be hard to truly say good-bye to all of these incredible people, writing this was hard enough, now I’m going to have to do it in person. Cue the waterworks. You all will be truly missed, and I know the future is bright for you.
UVA hands Longwood loss

Defeat by Cavaliers makes fourth loss in five games for the Lancers

BY HALLE PARKER
SPORTS EDITOR
@HALPARKER

Longwood (17-22, 5-10) returned from the University of Virginia (UVA) (25-15, ) with a 14-6 loss after Cavalier catchers sophomore Matt Thaiss and junior Robbie Coman combined for seven RBI, half the runs scored.

Thaiss sent UVA’s first runner, freshman outfielder Adam Haseley, home, tying the game after an early Longwood run scored in the top of the first inning by sophomore third baseman Alex Lewis. Four more runs followed the tying run to round out the bottom, three sent through by Coman.

After Lewis, Longwood went five innings without a run. UVA went up by another seven runs, leading 12-1.

Junior left fielder Kyri Washinton broke the dry spell with a home run in the sixth, earning two RBI. Following Washington, freshman Mike Osinski sent senior right fielder Brandon Delk home with a ground ball to third base.

Osinski has scored in five of his last seven games and has a .292 batting average.

After two more runs in the sixth inning, the Cavaliers rode their 10 point lead to the top of the ninth inning. The final inning saw freshman outfielder Tyler Barry hit his first home run of the season and earn his first two RBI.

This was Barry’s eighth appearance this season.

Six different Longwood pitchers took the mound for at least one inning.

Junior right-handed pitcher Ellis Allen held his position the longest for 2.1 innings. Allen allowed five runs and three hits.

Sophomore right-handed pitchers Ryan Jones and Devin Gould combined with Ellis to throw five strikeouts across 4.3 innings.

Each of UVA’s three pitchers allowed at least one run and threw at least one strikeout. Cavalier freshman right-handed pitcher Derek Casey threw half (4) of UVA’s strikeouts after facing nine at-bats.

Longwood has lost four of their past five games, including two against conference rival Liberty University at home over the weekend.

The Lancers will face the University of North Carolina-Asheville in Asheville, N.C. for their next Big South series this weekend.

Longwood baseball traveled to Charlottesville, Va. to face the University of Virginia Cavaliers and fell 14-6 to their ACC opponent. Both junior left fielder Kyri Washington and freshman outfielder Tyler Barry hit home runs, neither gave Longwood a lead.
Lacrosse lowered by loss

High Point’s early nine-goal lead lifts them above Longwood in standings

BY HALLE PARKER
SPORTS EDITOR
@HALPARKER

Longwood lacrosse (5-11, 3-3) dropped two spots to the fifth-seed in the conference after their 15-6 loss to the High Point University Panthers (6-9, 4-2) on Sunday in North Carolina.

The teams stepped onto the field tied for third, both with three Big South wins and two Big South losses to their names. The Panthers’ large 10 goal lead in the first half carried them through, giving them separation from the Lancers.

Within the first 40 seconds of the game, High Point freshman midfielder Erica Perrotta began the onslaught of Panther goals. Longwood was down by nine prior to scoring their first goal with under seven minutes left in the first half.

Perrotta, Big South Freshman of the Week, went on to score two more goals, finishing every shot. Junior midfielder Leah Pace also tallied three goals, all of them occurring in the first half.

Freshman attacker Madison Stair earned three goals for Longwood in the second half, two within the last two minutes, the most of any Longwood player.

High Point’s attack slowed after halftime, their shot count decreasing from 20 to nine. The team scored all five of their second half shots-on-goal.

The Panthers scored more goals (15) than Longwood shot (12) overall.

Defensively, High Point won more ground balls, 23-18; Pace scooped six on her own.

Both teams gave up 14 turnovers, while Longwood caused one more (9) than High Point.

Junior attacker Katie McHugh (above) was one of four Longwood players to score against High Point. She, along with senior midfielder Liz Trainer and senior attacker Sarah Arndt, tallied one goal each.

One conference match remains between Longwood and the Big South conference tournament in less than a week.

The Lancers will face undefeated Liberty University (7-8, 5-0); Liberty currently sits on the No. 2 spot, tied with Winthrop University (13-2, 5-0) for first.

Longwood plays Liberty this Friday, April 24 at home.

Carter misses medal by one

Senior finishes seven-under par, places second overall individually

One away from tying, two from taking it all, Longwood senior men’s golfer Blake Carter finished his final Big South championship and tied for second, overall.

After being one of three players to finish the first round of the tournament at four-under par (68), the end of the second round found him alone at the top of the rankings.

“He has given himself a lot of chances, and he has made enough of them pay off to the point where he has an opportunity to do something special,” said men’s golf Head Coach Kevin Fillman to the Longwood athletics official website after the second round on Monday.

Hitting two-under par (70) the second round set him at six-under and in place to be the first Longwood men’s golfer to win individual Big South Medalist honors.

“No matter what happens, he has proven what myself and his teammates already knew: he is one of the top players in our league,” said Fillman on Monday to the Longwood athletics official website.

Due to Longwood’s No. 9 position, Carter began the third round at 9 a.m. this morning. Scoring one-under par (71), Winthrop sophomore Zach Seabolt hit two-under, making up for his one-under first round on Sunday to match Carter.

Carter and Seabolt’s totals were 209, seven-under par after three rounds.

This was Carter’s highest career finish in the conference tournament.

The nearest Lancer, junior Alex O’Dell, tied for thirty-fifth with two players from other schools. Carter hit 18 below O’Dell, securely leading Longwood.

The senior has led Longwood for the past five tournaments, the last ones of his four years in Division I.