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New classes, new requirements, new core curriculum

A new core curriculum is being planned in order to provide more integrated courses for future Longwood students.

On Saturday, September 15, the Academic Core Curriculum Committee (ACCC) presented their ideas for a new core curriculum at the Board of Visitors meeting.

The new core curriculum will be an upgrade to the general education portion of the current curriculum and is hoped to feature more integrated courses.

“It’s been a long time coming. We did an academic strategic plan back in 2012 that talked about general education reform. We had our accreditation review…while we passed successfully, we realized that through our self-study that there were some things that we could improve in general education,” says Dr. Larissa Fergeson, the vice-chair of the ACCC.

The reasons for reform of the curriculum vary from irrelevant goals for the current century to faculty workload related to teaching general education courses.

During the meeting, the concern for student feedback was brought up by a board member. So far the ACCC has not collected any feedback from current students, but collected surveys from past seniors and LSEM students concerning what they would like to see in the new curriculum.

The ACCC states that the new core curriculum will hopefully reduce faculty workload and bring about fully funded and professionally staffed center that address student development in core competencies.

The ACCC discussed the two models of general education, distributive and integrative. According to a 2009 AAC&U survey presented by the ACCC, 64 percent of schools fell between the distributive and integrative models. Around 18 percent fell within the integrative model and 15 percent fell within the distributive model. Longwood’s current general education falls within the distributive model, with some integrative influence. The new core curriculum is hoped to be a mix of the two models.

Three levels of the core curriculum were proposed to the board. The goals of the “foundation” level include diverse cultural perspective, writing and speaking for different audiences and creative artistic expression. The second, the “perspectives” level, includes goals such as using evidence to construct arguments and using information to ask good questions. The third, the “capstone” level, includes goals like ethics of personal decision-making and using civil discourse.

“The idea is that we would move toward a more integrated curriculum where students might take a core class in common at the foundations level or at the perspectives level or at the capstone level. Those courses would be distinctive to Longwood and could not be transferred in. But our committee is just at the ideas stage and hasn’t determined any of the details yet. We are still evaluating and seeking feedback from stakeholders on campus,” says Fergeson.

The current core curriculum outlines 14 goals and 50 outcomes for students, while the new core curriculum proposes three goals and 18 outcomes. Unlike the current general education of having SCHEV core competencies assessed separately from general education, the new proposal is to have these assessed within the core curriculum instead.

~continued on page 14
The senior class of 2015 wanted to leave their legacy with 28-ton Spirit Rock in hopes of creating a new tradition for Longwood. The senior class had raised a little over $5,000 last year but it would cost an estimated $15,000 to move the Spirit Rock from Lancer Park to main campus.

At the end of the previous academic year, the senior class came to SGA to request the monetary difference. After agreeing that it was an acceptable use of student funds, they were allocated the money on April 21, 2015.

What happened next?

Constance Garner led her first meeting as president of the SGA when that allocation was approved. Even though she was unable to vote she did take action by vetoing the decision to fund the movement of the Spirit Rock on June 9, therefore ending the possibility of the class gift.

Garner later said in an interview with The Rotunda that she had heard concerns about using student funds to provide the senior class gift. There were a lot of issues when talking about the money and the timing of the allocation according to Tim Pierson, vice president of Student Affairs.

Outside of student funds there were issues with the logistics of the project. “The rock couldn’t have been moved this summer, it wasn’t ready to be moved, we don’t know where it would go yet,” said Pierson.

When senate returned on September 1 Garner announced her official veto.

The veto.

There is some confusion on whether or not certain rules were broken in regard to the veto process as it is stated in the SGA Constitution.

In the SGA Constitution, according to the Article VI section, 6.02: Section 1 it states, “The President shall have the power to veto any legislation passed by the Student Senate within a one (1) week period immediately following the Student Senate meeting in which the legislation was passed; notice of the veto must appear in the agenda for the next Student Senate meeting.”

“My interpretation was, I had to make it known that I was doing a veto in the next senate meeting,” said Garner. “I did include the executive board in all of this, a lot of people are questioning why I didn’t inform senate before.”

According to Garner it doesn’t seem constitutionally correct because an official veto couldn’t have been made within a week since senate was out of session. This means that the veto held until the SGA came back in session, making the official veto day, Sept. 1.

Paige Rollins, former senator and 2015 senior class president learned about this veto over the summer by word of mouth. After hearing the news she reached out to President Garner in an email on June 12, in hopes of finding resolution. Rollins heard no response until June 29 where Garner clarified that she had vetoed the funding.

According to Rollins the senior class was never officially contacted but they were working with David Love, Director of Landscaping and Grounds Management and the facilitator of moving the Spirit Rock, when they were told they could no longer continue.

In an interview with The Rotunda, Love mentioned that he found a contractor over the summer that fit all of the financial requirements. “The reason why the process kind of stopped first off it needed to get into the Master Plan, that didn’t really occur,” said Love.

According to Love, one of the vice president’s of Facilities Management, Dick Bratcher, told him that the rock was no longer going to be moved around the time Garner and Pierson “had their conversation”.

“I think the biggest thing was the money issue,” said Love. “Up until a point it was available then Constance I guess vetoed it and that’s when the money issue really came up.”

“They basically got wind of my veto and it was stopped,” said Garner.

Arguably, the constitution was broken with the veto process. Since this all occurred before July 1, the senior class still had time to utilize the funds when the decision was made to veto the allocation.

The reserves.

This account was put in place so that unused student funds have an account to cycle back into so they can be used in the future.

“The money didn’t go away, the money is available and the reserves are available for anything that is really needed,” said Pierson. “We bought the bikes, SGA purchased the bikes with money out of the reserves.”

When asked about the reserves and whether it was public information Pierson responded saying they don’t typically do that but it isn’t a hidden thing.

“I don’t even have full access to the reserve accounts, I can’t go in right now and tell you how much is in there,” said Garner.

With much skepticism, this ongoing issue is being discussed amongst SGA representatives, faculty and staff members to decide on what to do next with The Spirit Rock.
Literacy issues in the Farmville community

BY JESSICA DARST
CONTRIBUTOR

There is a strong presence of illiteracy in the Farmville area even though there are many programs that offer literacy education.

According to the Virginia Historical Society, after the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education ruling, a resistance built within the South to prevent integration.

In Virginia, the governor closed public schools across the state to stop integration. In 1959, the courts ruled that the closings were unconstitutional, and all schools reopened except for those in Prince Edward County.

For five years, Prince Edward schools remained closed, leaving about 1,700 black and lower-income white students to either find another school outside the county or to wait at home for five years.

As a result, many of the students who were denied an education at that time grew up without ever being able to obtain an education. Some students were able to get their GED or went to the Free School, which was set up by the Farmville community.

Park View Garden Apartments are government funded and rent low-income family housing in Farmville. “Around 46-48 percent of adults from our 80 households cannot read,” says Patty Jones, the Park View Property Manager. Jones explained that Park View used to offer a GED program for their community members but recently the program was terminated for a lack of interest.

“We no longer have a GED program but we still need one. I honestly think it’s because people are embarrassed that others will find out they can’t read,” says Jones, regarding the lack of interest.

Jones continues to point out what could potentially cause a greater issue in the Farmville community by encouraging parents to keep their children in mind. Even if they didn’t graduate from high school, the parents should still support their children’s education.

The Central Virginia Regional Library, which consists of Farmville and Buckingham counties, offers adult literacy programs for Buckingham but not for Farmville.

However, the Farmville Library does consistently offer programs for children.

“I think the children that use the library have higher reading levels than those who don’t,” says Cindy Southall, the children’s programmer for the library.

When asked about how many children participate in these free programs, Southall was unable to provide an exact number.

Regarding the reason why children might not be able to attend the programs Southall said, “I think a lot of it is getting here for the programs we have. Transportation is a problem, but it also takes the intention to say ‘I’m going to go.’

Jones encourages parents to reach out to the free literacy programs in hopes of educating the local community.

“If a program is sitting right here, and you’re too embarrassed to let people know you don’t read, to me that’s just silly… I think that too many people are embarrassed to say they can’t read,” said Jones.

“NEW CLASSES” continued from page 2

As far as the program structure, the ACCC is considering Longwood-distinctive courses that cannot be transferred in which would begin in the “perspectives” level of the curriculum. Transfer students have been taken into consideration, and the ACCC acknowledges that it would require looking at and possibly revising articulation agreements for transfer students.

As far as budget impact, the ACCC is considering the possibility of charging students by semester instead of credit hours. This would mean that it would cost a student the same price to take 18 credits a semester as it would for a student to take 15 credits a semester.

The concern for additional faculty was addressed by the ACCC with the possibility of hiring lecturers for some new courses and make general adjustments.

Other budget impacts include faculty workload. The ACCC acknowledged the need to consider research and scholarships, as well as faculty salary. Removing advising responsibility from faculty will also be considered.

This week, the goals and outcomes of the proposed core curriculum will be presented to the Faculty Senate for approval.

The future plans for the core curriculum include holding workshops with faculty, staff, and students in order to gain feedback on the program structure and revising the program structure based on the feedback.

Next semester, the ACCC plans on beginning faculty and course development. The new program structure will then be sent to the Faculty Senate for approval.

By Fall 2017, the ACCC plans on starting the new core curriculum for its first year. Incoming transfer students and all other students except for incoming freshmen will still be under the old curriculum. The ACCC hopes to have incoming transfers under the new core curriculum by 2018 and that all incoming students for 2019 will be under it.

“Well I think there’s lot of good things about our current general education program. But I think that program was put in place in 2002. And so there’s been a lot of changes in the world since 2002. Our students have changed. And I think that it’s an opportunity to revisit general education for the 21st century. So, I think it’s timely. It’s important that we do it and hopefully it will be more fun,” says Ferguson.

The Board of Visitors will hold another meeting in December to discuss the progress on the new core curriculum.

The new core curriculum also proposes that speaking and writing intensive courses will be assessed within the core curriculum instead of within the major. It also proposes that some core curriculum courses will be counted towards a major, instead of the current standard of Goals 1-13 not being able to be counted towards a major.

The current general education model requires an internship, but the proposed core curriculum model requires an internship, but the proposed core curriculum presents the idea of having internship requirements decided by the major. The ACCC is also considering changes to foreign language requirements.
Drug suspensions significantly reduced

BY CHARLES PETERSON
CONTRIBUTOR

Almost one year ago, Longwood University reduced its Marijuana Disciplinary Sanction, replacing the previous minimum sanction of suspension.

When looking at the number of Conduct Board hearings resulting in suspension regarding drugs, the number has dropped significantly, going from 24 suspensions during 2013-14 to only seven suspensions during 2014-15.

“Certainly this policy of moving toward that different sanction would have impacted that,” says Dr. Tim Pierson, the vice president of Student Affairs.

This adjusted policy was both a result of comparing disciplinary actions exercised at other schools and the growing number of states supporting the legalization of marijuana as discussed in a previous article last November.

In the most recent student handbook, under the “Alcohol and Other Drug Policies” section on page 30, the first offense charge was lessened to only one calendar year of disciplinary probation and the requirement that students charged with violating this policy must take a formal risk assessment conducted by an alcohol/substance-abuse counselor. In the previous 2013-14 handbook, the first charge for possession resulted in immediate suspension, which can be found on page 53.

This policy change only covers those students charged with use or possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia, not those charged with distribution. A distribution charge continues to carry immediate expulsion from Longwood. Likewise, Longwood is considered a drug-free school zone and any legal charges taken against a student by either the Longwood or Farmville Police Departments remain the same in accordance with Clause G of Article I of the “Alcohol and Other Drug Policies” section of the handbook.

Pierson stated that this policy change has been in the works for several years now. He also emphasized Longwood has not changed its stance on its zero tolerance policy when regarding the illegal distribution, possession or use of drugs.

“Disciplinary probation is not getting off; it is defined as a last stage of warning.” Pierson continued, “Marijuana users are a smaller percentage, but it’s a percentage, so it is working with those students in terms of making decisions that are good for themselves that don’t carry a consequence that you’re not going to want to face.”

Jen Fraley, the associate dean of Conduct and Integrity, further explains, “We haven’t changed our tolerance of these offences. We’ve just added some flexibility in there, so if the situation calls for it, it can be at the minimum sanction.”

Pierson reaffirms, “I don’t think it lessens the message, that abuse of drugs and alcohol are not consistent with a healthy lifestyle. It’s not consistent with citizen leadership.”

The Longwood Conduct Board has been involved in these changes as well, providing its Conduct Board members training regarding the updated policies and procedures for 2015-16. Fraley also confirms that, “In terms of alcohol and drug offences, they are our most prevalent offences, in general, for student conduct issues.”

“I have mixed feelings about the criminalization of it [marijuana]. I don’t think I’ve seen where marijuana really contributes to students’ performance, whether that be academics, or athletics, or socially,” explains Pierson. “I don’t think it’s evil either, and I don’t like that painted, and some people dealing with depression and medical symptoms, marijuana has shown to be effective for them.”

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Open Forum was the division of the organizations into five tiers. It was confirmed that these tiers are simply a way to organize the organizations into groups. The different tiers makes no change in how much money an organization is able to request from SGA and doesn’t affect the possibility of receiving money. It was stated that the only difference between the tiers was that the first tier organizations such as WMLU, Lancer Productions and the Ambassadors, are able to request organization t-shirts. However, the possibility of money being provided for the t-shirts is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Another concern addressed during open forum was parking by the Health Center. The parking currently consists of commuter spaces and two two-hour parking spots. Many SGA members expressed concern over the possibility of parking tickets when trying to receive healthcare from the Health Center.

Dr. Tim Pierson, the vice president for student affairs, stated that if students are using the parking spots for the Health Center, they could possibly call the parking office and let them know that they are parked there for the time that they will be in the Health Center. He also said that there is an appeal process to contest tickets and that a representative from Parking Services could be contacted by SGA for questions about parking.

Pierson closed the discussions in the open forum with encouragement for students to collect Longwood memorabilia from any Longwood alumni acquaintances or relatives. The memorabilia is encouraged to be donated to the new Maugans Alumni Center for display.

Different events across campus were announced before adjournment.

The next SGA meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 22 at 3:45 p.m. in the Student Union.

One thing that is always on people’s minds is the price of gas. Due to the large role it plays in our society, it is one of the main components and influences of prices around the world.

In addition to people paying for gas at the pump for their cars, companies pay for gas in order to transport goods around the world as well.

It is essential to everyday life, and many people have been pleased to see that the price of gas has been dropping over the past few months.

According to CNBC, crude oil prices have dropped over 60 percent since June 2014. One of the main reasons for this drop is the largest global surplus of crude oil in current time, along with concerns about the slowing Chinese economy.

“We think we are near the floor, but nothing precludes that we temporarily move lower,” says BNP Paribas global head of commodity strategy, Harry Tchilinguirian.

Essentially, Tchilinguirian believes we are near the lowest prices for oil, but nothing is indicating that oil has finished decreasing in price.

CNBC also reported that advances in technology have helped oil rigs produce roughly double the amount of oil in the past year, essentially allowing the industry to do more with no added work. It seems that over the next few months, oil will continue to fall, effectively reducing gas prices at the pumps. It’s something to look forward to and will hopefully save you some money in the near future.
MTV stars encourage students to vote at Decision 2016 event

“There are 44 million college-aged students in the entire country and most of them feel like their voices are not going to be heard so they don’t vote,” said MTV’s Sarah Patterson and Nick Brown on Wednesday, September 9 at a campus event called Decision 2016.

Decision 2016 was an event with a mission to get students to come out and discuss the importance of voting without discriminating along party lines and where they fall.

Beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Jarman Auditorium, the campus student programming board, Lancer Productions, brought this interactive forum where MTV Real World/Road Rules Challenge stars Patterson and Brown talked about topics like women’s rights, the legalization of marijuana, student loans, the cost of education and more.

“I think this event went extremely well! We are still getting positive feedback from it because students were happy that they could come out and learn where to start when it came to voting and politics,” said Megan Drewry, the Lancer Productions student who planned the event.

Throughout the event, Patterson and Brown both emphasized the importance of researching the candidates that are running for office and knowing what they stand for and what policies they support. They also spoke about the importance of being informed and about how impactful their single vote can be.

The MTV duo also stayed after to do a meet and greet with students, getting to know them further and answering any questions they had about what was previously discussed during the forum. According to Drewry, Patterson and Brown were amazing at encouraging students to get involved with politics and to stay informed.

Drewry said, “They were so friendly and really wanted to get to know every student that came out. They were such great people to work with and because of them, the event was incredible!” The presenters also explained to students where they could vote and how they could vote. They also encouraged students to start voting and get involved with local elections and local politics, in order influence their own communities and to understand the bigger elections that are coming up next November.

“I learned that when I vote in my local community, I can make a huge difference,” said Drewry. “Then that difference goes up, up, up, all the way to the presidential election.”

At the end of the event, Patterson and Brown wanted to remind the over sixty students who attended, “That when 44 million college-aged students can get together and vote, they can make a huge difference on the world and on our country.”
The continuous speech of a single reader carrying on the voice of an epic writer mixed with the sounds of the end of summertime. Students would walk past the white tent towards their classes on campus, occasionally stopping by to say a few lines or just look on as the story continued. Readers would giggle as professors imitated snakes and demonic noises as apples were passed around the group of tables to the fellow readers.

This past Friday, Longwood University’s department of English and Modern Languages gathered outside Grainger Hall once again for the marathon reading of Milton’s epic poem “Paradise Lost.” The event began shortly after 9:00 a.m. and continued throughout the school day. The poem, “arguably one of the best in the English language” according to Associate Professor Dr. Shawn Smith, is one poem that teachers of many disciplines include on their reading lists.

Smith has coordinated this event for many years at Longwood to encourage, not just his department to come together, but other students as well. “This is what the liberal arts is about,” he commented, continuing, “It isn’t just for English people.” Many classes of all disciplines urge students to push past all comfort zones and read a small excerpt from the poem publicly. It’s an opportunity to feel more confident in public speaking and a refreshing way of teaching about the classics. “We want them to be a part of this great achievement,” Smith said.

Amanda Thompson, an English graduate studies student, would come back and forth camping out at the event between her classes. “I think it’s really fantastic,” she said. As a student, who may feel disconnected from the new generation of incoming Lancers, it’s a chance for all “students and faculty to come together.”

The Milton reading is an annual event, and it is one that students, regardless of major, faculty, staff and community members should check out and give public reading a shot.
Longwood is a small school. It so small that faces become easily recognizable. One such face is that of Farris Hallaj. You have probably seen him walking to and from his classes with his cane tapping the ground to help him find his way. Hallaj has optic nerve hypoplasia, a congenital disease that he was born with. His condition has rendered him legally blind. Many students may have guessed that Hallaj was visually impaired while passing him on campus. Could you have guessed that this talented young man has performed at Carnegie Hall?

Before Hallaj came to Longwood to pursue his bachelor of arts with a focus in music, he was able to sing at Carnegie Hall with the All American Honors Choir. Performing at the dream venue came just after his 19th birthday, after which he enrolled here at Longwood. During his time he has been involved in some pretty daring performances.

Hallaj has performed in “L’Amour” and “Trojan Women.” However, none of his roles were quite as challenging as the one he took on for Sweeny Todd. Hallaj and the theatre department collaborated to find a way to make him a fully active participant. Hallaj was paired up with partners for the group numbers. This way he was able to dance and move freely with the other actors. While he enjoyed his foray into musical theatre, Hallaj insists that his passion lies in vocal performance.

“I've always been very interested in music,” said Hallaj. “Since I was very little, anything that made music I was very interested in. Also I was very touched and inspired by a lot of singers I heard, by what they sang about and also the tone of their music.”

Hallaj isn't exactly sure which genre of musical performance he would like to pursue once his time here at Longwood is over. The specifics of what he is singing doesn't matter nearly as much as the feeling of catharsis he gets from performing.

For Hallaj, stage fright has never been a major issue. “I would always go out there. I did not have stage fright, I would go out there and stand and sing. I would get out there by myself and find the right spot and basically perform and let it all out.”

When asked if he ever felt that his impairment might hold him back from achieving his dream of becoming a performer, Hallaj simply responded, “No, not at all.” The thought of not getting to chase down his passion was never an option in his mind. Being held back is not an option for neither him nor anyone else who might feel held back when it comes to pursuing their goals.

“If you can think about it and know what you wish you could do, just go for it. Do your very best at it and give it your all.”

What would Miley Cyrus say to our patron saint Joan of Arc? What about Abraham Lincoln to Chuck Norris? Ever wonder if Hitler could out rap Darth Vader? Well thanks to the brilliance of Epic Rap Battles, the world knows the answers to those questions, and on Tuesday Lancers had the opportunity to experience it live.

Epic Rap Battles started back in 2010 as a YouTube video series in which Internet personalities, Peter Shukoff and Lloyd Ahlquist, played historical and pop culture figures, both real and fictional, pitted against each other in rap battles. The series has grown immensely since then, winning several Streamy Awards in 2013 and 2014.

Jacob Long, a sophomore, can see why people love the series.

“I feel like their work is clever as well as funny and they do a good job portraying who they are trying to portray,” said Long.

Maeleigh Ferlet, another sophomore, has been watching the series since the beginning. She was excited to see them perform live.

“It was cooler than I thought, because they didn’t just sit there and rap at each other,” said Ferlet. “They had their costumes. They had other people there. They asked the audience which ones they wanted to see, it wasn’t just a set and they did some comedic stuff too.”

She was also surprised at how interactive they were, allowing audience members to actually rap out parts of the characters they knew.

“They had this one guy come up for the Dr. Seuss vs. Shakespeare and he did good on the first verse but the second verse it was too fast for him,” added Ferlet. “So this girl was like really fast and she came up and did it and everyone was blown away.”

For the last act, the comedic group did an improv segment where they asked the audience for suggestions of figures. The students gave them Civil War general Stonewall Jackson and the actor Jackie Chan, resulting in absolute comedy. Both Ferlet and Long said the improv segment was their favorite part of the night.

“It was really funny,” stated Ferlet. All in all, they said the event was epic.
The Rotunda Online

**The Quickening Image**

Exhibition tells a story of creativity and friendship at LCVA

BY NATALIE JOSEPH
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Saturday, September 12 was the official opening night for the Longwood Center for Visual Arts’ (LCVA) current running exhibition, “The Quickening Image: The Wax-Resist Drawings of David Dodge Lewis and Ephraim Rubenstein / A Twenty Year Collaboration.”

Although the exhibition has been on display since June 20, the opening reception that was attended by both artists, David Dodge Lewis and Ephraim Rubenstein from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. was a time for food and drinks as well as to discuss the art displayed.

The exhibition, that according to the artists themselves, features large-scale, complexly layered, collaborative wax-resist drawings, a multi-media technique that utilizes wax as a resist for subsequent ink and charcoal washes, will run until November 22.

Lewis and Rubenstein began their collaboration after Rubenstein attended a wax-resist process workshop at the University of Richmond. From there, Lewis shared his creative wax-resist process and knowledge with Rubenstein and it soon led to years of collaboration.

Lewis said this about how he got the concept for this unique process, “In graduate school I had seen another graduate student working with wax-resist a little and she never went very far with it. I thought it was very interesting.

Then I developed and starting talking about what if I put water above charcoal and it worked very well!”

According to the artists, “The Quickening Image” is not only a way for them to share their work with the Farmville and Longwood community, but it is also a way for them to share Lewis’ wax-resist process and tell the story of a cultivated friendship.

With displays on both the top and bottom levels of the LCVA, “The Quickening Image” takes over the lower-level with its black and white wax drawings and paintings. The pieces range from being historical all the way to more modern pieces that even feature Rubenstein’s own beloved dog.

There are also a lot of pieces that feature mechanical objects, flowers, statues, and cameras. Lewis said that these objects are interesting to use because they allow him to transform regular objects into something more. Lewis also says that one way he differentiates his pieces from Rubenstein’s is that his wax is more splashy, as well as more free-flowing, looking like accidents.

Lewis said, “I like to liven them and just kind of make them into an expressive object and not just a frozen object and the splashes help animate them that way.”

Lewis will be teaching a workshop similar to the one that brought him and Rubenstein together at the LCVA on Sunday, November 1 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. that is free and open to the public if registered.

“90059:” Jay Rock’s finest

BY RYAN QUIGLEY
A&E STAFF

The race to be the king of hip-hop is intensifying. While poets like Kendrick Lamar and J. Cole currently sit atop the list, there could be a new candidate for the crown, and his name is Jay Rock.

One of Jay Rock’s more notable performances is his feature in the song “Money Trees” from Lamar’s 2012 Grammy award-nominated album “good kid, m.A.A.d city.” But a little-known fact about Jay Rock is that Lamar, one of the top figures in the present-day gangsta rap scene, was his hype man before becoming the icon he is today. Lamar has obviously made more of an impact at this point, but that didn’t come without Jay Rock leaving his mark.

A year before “good kid m.A.A.d city” was released, Jay Rock released an album of his own, “Follow Me Home,” featuring jams like “No Joke” and “Hood Gone Love It,” which was included in the video game “Grand Theft Auto V.” “Follow Me Home” was one of the hardest-hitting rap albums of 2011 and four years later, Jay Rock’s sophomore album “90059” is no different.

“90059” was released in a surprise drop on Friday and it is something out of another solar system. The west coast rapper continues to produce hard-hitting thumpers like the album’s title track and “Easy Bake,” featuring guess who, Kendrick Lamar.

A can’t miss is the album’s lead track, “Necessary,” beginning with a piano-heavy head bobbing beat as Jay Rock spews “Nine double-zero five none be the zip” before transitioning into one of the nicest beats you’ll hear in your lifetime. “I’m straight up out the east side, swingin’ like ziplines on Forgiato rim tires, automatic spit fire,” Jay Rock raps as the cartoony rhythm persists.

Later comes “Gumbo,” one of the album’s smoother songs. A sparkling beat filled with strings and a catchy hook, “Hold up wait a minute, let me put some season on that gumbo,” the lyrics on “Gumbo” are some of the deeper of “90059” along with the lyrics on “Fly on the Wall.”

But the main highlight of “90059” is “Vice City.” Along with fellow Top Dawg Entertainment members Ab-Soul, Schoolboy Q and Lamar, Jay Rock is one quarter of the hip hop group Black Hippy, which assembles in full for the song.

It is a spacey poetic journey that will absolutely boggle your mind as Ab-Soul rhymes, “I’m more spiritual than lyrical, I’m similar to Eli...Why? ‘Cause I’m wearing black shades and I’m headed west with the word of God,” referring to “The Book of Eli,” starring Denzel Washington. “Vice City” is one of the most abstract, imposing tracks on the album and probably in hip-hop as a whole.

If you appreciate west coast hip-hop, you’ll love “90059.” With its deep lyrics and cerebral beats, this is a can’t-miss for rap lovers. Especially if you are a fan of the Top Dawg Entertainment crew.

While the album can get a little too abstract at times, overall, it’s a solid effort that will certainly catapult Jay Rock. How far, though, has yet to be determined.

Grade: B
Importance of Being Earnest

BY REBECCA HUFFINE
A&E CONTRIBUTOR

Performers from the American Shakespeare Center, based out of Staunton, Virginia, took the stage in Jarman Auditorium at Longwood on Monday night, presenting Oscar Wilde’s “The Importance of Being Earnest.” Longwood University and Hampden-Sydney College were proud to jointly welcome and host a free play for the third consecutive year. Prior to the show, the American Shakespeare Center put on a brief musical and comedic pre-show for the audience. As promised, the “playful language and charming characters” came to life on stage for the main event, providing a “biting look at contemporary society.” Audience members were delightfully entertained by the comedic play as it aimed to mock societal customs of the Victorian era, marriage and the pursuit of love. The irony of the play’s title centers around the protagonist Jack’s fictitious brother named Ernest – whom he uses as an alibi for some time in order to engage in irresponsible spontaneous behavior before ultimately killing him off. Overall, despite being a 120 year old play, “The Importance of Being Earnest” draws remarkable parallels with and remains relevant to today’s online driven society with its witty use of divided identities.

Correct answers will be posted at the bottom of page 11 next week!
Facebook is creating a “Dislike” button and I “dislike” it

BY NATALIE JOSEPH
ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR
@HEYNATJO

On Tuesday, September 15, Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg, confirmed during a Q&A session for the company, that Facebook is now in the process of creating and implementing a “Dislike” button after countless requests from users.

During the session, Zuckerberg said that people have been requesting a dislike button for years and now, after the company as a whole voted against it time and time again, the time has finally come and the users have won.

He stated, “Today is a special day because today is the day I can say we’re working on it and shipping it.”

Other popular social media sites/applications with dislike buttons include Reddit and Tinder, both of which you can either approve of a posting or someone’s looks, or choose to dislike or pass. Before this announcement, Zuckerberg has publicly displayed his negative feelings about having a dislike button by saying, “That isn’t what we’re here to build in the world.”

But why the sudden change of heart, Mr. Z?

He said that the “dislike” button would be used for sad posts such as deaths, crises and other negative everyday life situations faced by its account users.

“This very much concerns me. In a day and age where people are free to express opinions (some of which I agree with and some I disagree with) on social media, this dislike button greatly saddens me. I believe that when we put a place to dislike, we feel less inclined to state our real, true opinions and be our real, true selves.

I personally wonder how it would be if every opinion post/article I ever wrote for The Rotunda had a like or dislike button. If the Rotunda did utilize a like or dislike button then I would probably be less inclined to write my opinion and publish it, which is sad.

A professor once told me that opinions can help people and can make a difference. Though I am still waiting for the day someone is greatly influenced by one of my sad rants against the on goings of pop culture and social media, I am still grateful that someone cannot just push a dislike button on me and bring me down every time I try to express myself.

As for the “deaths, crises and other negative everyday life situations” that were a part of Zuckerberg’s reasoning, I would hope that any normal human being would have enough sense to believe those things are already sad and a dislike button does not need to reinforce that sadness.

In my opinion, a dislike button will only lead to negativity via social media and we sure as anything, do not need more of that. Another thing Zuckerberg said was, “What they really want is the ability to express empathy. Not every moment is a good moment.”

Obviously people understand that and I would rather have someone comment or send their personal condolences to me when something bad happens, rather than just hit a dislike button and keep scrolling down their timeline.

This dislike button just seems to me as another way that people can hide behind their computer screens. If I trusted the world to only use it for the things Zuckerberg is making it for, I would probably not write this, but I do not and that is why I “dislike.”

— Tucker Lance —

A satire by Emily Haswell

The brothers of Fappa Fappa Fappa (FFF) are sad to inform you that our brother Tucker Lance passed away suddenly on September 12 from complications of being too on fleek. Lance leaves behind 37 beloved fraternity brothers, his girlfriend Margret Stace, and his side girl Vanessa Besto. FFF would like to invite all those who loved and knew Lance to his funeral this Saturday, September 19. Those who wish to attend the funeral should know that the event is (of course) BYOB, unless you are a female, in which case, alcohol is provided. The ceremony is open to FFF members at 9 p.m., and then open to the public at midnight. Please be prepared to identify which brother you know.

P.S. No fatties.
Five things I know for sure

BY DUSTYN HALL
OPINION STAFF

I was recently asked during a casual conversation what I know for sure. I was asked what finite things or what absolute facts I felt with the most certainty and the most confidence, what I knew to be true and honest. After thinking for a while, staring blankly into space, wondering and trying to gather words into sentences, I realized that there are many things I know, but little that I know for sure. Subsequently and embarrassingly, after being unable to give an answer during this conversation and eventually going home, I decided to grab a notepad and a pen and write down the answers to that question. The list was not too long, only about 11 ideas graced the paper, some of which I can’t share via the public platform, but the five things I can are five things that I know one hundred percent without second guessing myself.

First and foremost, I know that many things have had an impact on my life, both in positive and negative ways. Divulging into my personal story, I struggled with bullying during my middle school career. I placed the opinions of others about me before my own opinions of myself. I struggled with realizing that it didn’t matter what others thought about me because in the end the only opinion that mattered was my own. It took a suicide attempt, a visit to the guidance counselor and a bookshelf full of books to realize this, but I finally grasped the idea that I matter. Once I understood and accepted that, I was a changed person.

Secondly, I know that books, like my personal story, have the ability to change us on so many levels, levels that we didn’t know existed. When I have a problem, I grab a book to read myself out of it. Reading creates a secondary world that I can escape to and that is a truly magical and beautiful thing.

Thirdly, I know for sure that friendships are the cornerstones of good relationships. Without friendships, our lives would be very different. Friendships are something far more powerful than we realize. In essence, friends are family that are not bound to us by blood, but have the same decency, respect and dedication as our family. We would not think twice before taking a bullet for a family member, and the same goes for a friend. That is so remarkable.

And the last thing I know for sure is that love is a real but intangible thing. It may sound a bit corny, but it is honestly without a doubt the most important thing that I know. Love, more than anything else, is the most powerful thing of all. Love supersedes differences, love conquers hate and prejudice and love has the ability to affect how we treat others.

When you get a moment, sit down with a pen and paper and think about what you know for sure. Allow your mind to open up to the endless possibilities and let the ideas flow. Inspire change, read a good book to escape you problems, enjoy Longwood and encourage spirit, create friendships and most of all, love.

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When you get a moment, sit down with a pen and paper and think about what you know for sure. Allow your mind to open up to the endless possibilities and let the ideas flow. Inspire change, read a good book to escape you problems, enjoy Longwood and encourage spirit, create friendships and most of all, love.

City at night

A reality-inspired narrative

BY THOMAS SCHWEIGHARDT
OPINION STAFF

I began to feel antsy in my room. It was around midnight. I needed to burn some energy, so I decided to take a walk around town. I didn’t realize how dark it would be until I walked through the “High Bridge Trail.” I felt like I was walking with my eyes closed. The traffic lights were deceiving. I was walking towards Main Street, and I saw the headlights of cars driving towards me and heard the hiss of tires on road behind me. I turned my head just in time to see us parallel to each other, on the road. The air smelled damp and cold. There was also this other smell I couldn’t put a name to, something I had smelt before, something I recognized. The air was sweet and familiar. I couldn’t put my finger on it, but I knew it was there, like a scent I had just woken up to. The air was heavy with the scent of decay, a scent that I knew was there, but I couldn’t put a name to it.

“I was walking down Main Street when I saw this man gone insane. He wore white t-shirt, blue jeans and he was carrying a white bag in his right hand. I reached behind my back for my imaginary axe.” He probably would have looked back at me with a blank stare and just kept on walking.

“Those men are all crazy,” they say. Ha! Infinite is the mind of the man gone insane.
WSOC: West Virginia too much for Lancers

No. 5 Mountaineers take care of business against Longwood

BY DERRICK BENNINGTON
SPORTS STAFF
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The defending Big 12 champion West Virginia University (7-1-0) was in control from start to finish against Big South Longwood University (3-4-0) last Sunday afternoon, Sept. 13.

The No. 5 nationally ranked Mountaineers sent an astonishing 41 shots at the Lancer defense, 16 on goal, on their way to a 4-0 shutout in Morgantown. Sunday's contest was the sixth consecutive shutout by West Virginia, their seventh in eight games.

"If that team is number five in the country, I can't even imagine how good the four in front of them must be," said women's soccer head coach Todd Dyer on the official Longwood athletics website.

West Virginia got off to a quick 3-0 start in the first 25 minutes of action thanks to two goals from sophomore forward and Canadian national team member Michaela Abam, who leads the Big 12 in scoring with seven.

The Mountaineers matched that effort defensively as they didn't allow a single shot from the Lancer attack.

The loss was only the second time this season the Lancers had allowed more than a single goal in a game. The other one was on Sept. 2 in a 4-2 loss to Virginia Tech, who was No. 10 at the time.

Other Mountaineers who scored include senior forward Kailey Utley and sophomore midfielder Carla Portillo. Portillo tallied her first goal of the season, Utley's fifth.

Entering Sunday, the Mountaineers led the Big 12 and ranked in the NCAA top 20 in goals scored (20), as well as having the fewest goals allowed (2), while ranking in the top 20 in the NCAA in both of those categories.

On the men's side, the storylines played out to have the top two seeds meet in the final, juggernauts Djokovic and Federer meeting for the 42nd time in their classic rivalry. The women's match was regarded as less than exciting for the fans as ticket prices dropped over 200 dollars overnight. While the men's match was regarded as a renewal of one of the most competitive rivalries in tennis.

Both played to a great ending. The all-Italian match was won by Pennetta who rode off into the sunset after winning her only major title in an eventful women's tournament that was turned on its head.

The men's final was called the best match of the tournament. As Federer came in playing youthful tennis even at his old age for tennis, 33, but Djokovic stole the limelight away from the crowd taking the legend down in four sets 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

Two stories that when told are going to be polar opposite in ending. Cliches won in the end on one side while the exact seeding played out in another as sports proves once again, anything can happen.

The combination of senior goalkeeper Hailey Machen and sophomore goalkeeper Maria Kirby recorded 12 saves, three quarters of the shots on goal, an impressive number considering the Mountaineers had tallied 14 goals in the three games prior to Sunday.

"We did some good things today, primarily defensively, and we responded better in the second half than we did to start the game," said Dyer on the Longwood athletics official website. "If we apply what we learned on both sides of the ball today, we will only get better moving forward."

The Lancers will finish of their five game road swing this upcoming Sunday, Sept. 20 against the University of Richmond Spiders (2-4-0) before welcoming in defending Big South champion High Point University on Wednesday, Sept. 23.
FSHK: Lancers earn first win of the season

MacDonald's two goals lift the Lancers over Towson

In their three previous games, the Lancers (1-3-0) dropped three straight losses. However, Friday night in Towson, Maryland was different. On Sept. 11, the Lancers earned their first win of the 2015 campaign while on the road, 2-1.

Longwood entered Friday's match being outscored 17-6 by opponents, including an overtime loss against Lafayette College. A familiar foe stood before Longwood's first victory as they faced the Towson University Tigers (1-5-0).

The Tigers downed the Lancers in their last meeting 3-2. This time, Longwood outshot Towson 15-5 holding the Tigers to just two second half shots.

“We really put the game plan into action today, and I think that says a lot about how hard we practiced this week,” said Longwood senior captain forward Jenn Burris on the Longwood athletics official website.

The Lancers were led by senior midfielder Hollie MacDonald, who struck for the Lancers only 13 minutes in the first half and again in the second half, marking the second straight game she has scored multiple times. MacDonald has scored five of her seven shots overall this year.

The first win of the year was also the first career win for freshman goalkeeper Katie Wyman in her third start. She faced five total shots, four on goal. The lone goal allowed came in the 52nd minute as Towson senior forward Jenney Heather scored the only goal for the Tigers.

“It's good to get our first win,” Longwood field hockey head coach Iain Byers told Longwood's official athletics website. “We knew it would be a scrappy game coming here, and it was a close one last year. We stressed to the team how hard they'd have to fight and how it wouldn't be the prettiest game.”

Longwood returns home to the blue turf at Longwood Athletics Complex to open their Mid-American Conference (MAC) as they host Miami University Redhawks (4-3-0).

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The Redhawks bring a winning record as they look to capitalize on recent success in the MAC. They finished conference play 4-2-0 last season.

“It gives us a lot of momentum going into the first conference game,” said Burris to the Longwood athletics official website. “We’re looking forward to carrying that into our preparation this week as we get ready for Miami.”

Longwood women's tennis faced polar opposite results in Sunday afternoon's doubleheader.

The day, Sept. 13, saw the Lancers fall 11-1 to George Mason University (GMU) only to defeat Mount St. Mary's 6-2 in the next matchup.

“We played much better against Mount St. Mary's, and by the time we played singles we finally found our groove and looked more like the team I had envisioned,” said second-year head coach Bruce Myers on the Longwood athletics official website.

Junior Anna Pelak began her singles season with two wins against both competitors at the No. 2 spot, earning Longwood’s lone point in the next matchup.

New freshman Fallon Burger began at the No. 1 spot for the Lancers and beat her first opponent of the season in Mount St. Mary's junior Kelly Smith, 8-6.

The Lancers were supposed to have a third match against Division III Christopher Newport University, but the Captains decided to "pull out of the tournament," according to the Longwood athletics official website.

Longwood will travel to Loyola University for another invitational from Sept. 25-27.
CONVOCATION 2015

PHOTOS BY MATT ALEXANDER