Raising the bar for student leadership

BY PAYTON CONWAY | FEATURES EDITOR | @WWEPAYTONAC

Here at Longwood, one thing that is really stressed and emphasized is the concept of citizen and student leadership. There are plenty of examples within the Longwood community. One organization and its leaders are truly embodying that concept.

The Pre-Law Society, in just one short year, has gained a reputation of absolute professionalism and was recently awarded the title of Best New Organization last semester. The organization’s story began when its vice president, Alex Magid, first came to Longwood. After earning his Associate’s degree at Central Virginia Community College, he transferred to Longwood in the fall of 2014 and enrolled in the pre-law program. In his Constitutional Rights class, he met the club’s future president, Mark Barham, another pre-law student and current SGA senator. The two immediately hit it off and Barham explained that he and others had been trying to start up a pre-law organization, but weren’t quite sure how to start it. Magid did.

“I mentioned to him that I had this business background, because I own my company. I actually own an auto detail company, which I started up when I was in high school, because people said you couldn’t do it. They said ‘You can’t start a business,’ and I was like, ‘Watch me!’ Magid said.

With Magid’s business expertise and both of their desires to help their fellow pre-law students, the duo quickly began to work. After discussing and gaining the support of Dr. Mary Carver, associate professor of Political Science, Pre-Law program advisor and now, the society’s advisor, Barham and Magid founded the Pre-Law Club in the spring of 2015. With Barham as president and Magid as vice president, the group started out with just four members, but in just one short year has grown to 38 members and has been renamed the Pre-Law Society.

Magid believes the growth of the membership stems from their advertising, which included fliers and posters around campus, their Facebook page and radio advertisements, as well as the amount of things the society has been able to do for its members.

Their mission and motto for the organization is “Advancing undergraduate legal education.” The main focus is to help pre-law students gain connections to law schools, understand the law school admission process, including applications and interviews, as well as helping the students prepare for the Law School Admission Test.

The organization has made connections with nine regional law schools by bringing their admissions teams to campus including: Elon University, Regent University, Liberty University, The College of William and Mary, Washington and Lee University, and Charleston School of Law. The society looks to bring in other schools, like the Appalachian School of Law, George Washington University, American University and eventually, schools like Harvard.

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New voting process for Honor and Conduct Boards
BY VICTORIA WALKER

NPHC Week concludes with student hour
BY DAVID PETTYJOHN

Men’s basketball postseason preview
BY TRISTAN PENNA

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Campus Community Campaign looks to students for raising funds

By Christine Rindfleisch

The Campus Community Campaign has just come to a close after two weeks of fundraising in the hopes of receiving private funding for Longwood.

The campaign, previously known as the Faculty and Staff Campaign, has just this year opened up to receive donations from students in the hopes of motivating students who are currently at Longwood to get more involved rather than just alumni.

In addition to trying to increase donations by adding students, the campaign has extended their donation period from one week in years past to two weeks.

Faculty and staff are encouraged to donate at any time during the year, which many choose to do through payroll deductions.

Katherine Bulifant, the director of Campus Philanthropy, as well as a Longwood alum, has been in charge of the campaign for two years. Bulifant has used strategies which have been successful in the past and has hoped to add a stronger marketing aspect to it.

In this year’s campaign, there have been marketing strategies which included using signs displaying philanthropy statistics for students to easily read to and from class, as well as ‘Philanthropy Matters’ banners and bows on the inside and outside of buildings. Private funding is used towards buildings, in particular Brock Commons, which Bulifant stated “…would not be possible without private funding.”

“(The banners are) to show students buildings wouldn’t be here without private funding,” said Bulifant.

The main strategy in raising funds by students was to appeal to the senior class, which is currently fundraising for their senior class gift. In addition to the senior class, the campaign has reached out to the deans of colleges at Longwood to bring attention to all students.

Dr. Tim Pierson, the vice president for Student Affairs, sent out a mass email to all Longwood students asking for a donation of $5 and explained the impact which it could make for the university. “We want everyone to feel like they are included in this,” added Bulifant.

In this year’s campaign, an alum has offered to match minimums of $5 donations from students in the effort to entice more students to donate. Ways to donate include by cash, check, or credit card.

“We understand that students are cash-strapped and have needs to pay for; therefore, we are not soliciting for large gifts from students,” said Amy Harris, the director of University Engagement.

Bulifant added that many staff and faculty members have approached her with positive feedback about the statistics printed on the signs placed around campus.

“(We want to) help educate students about philanthropy and giving back to Longwood, their alma mater,” said Harris.

Last Thursday, February 26, some students wore blue ribbons to signify that they have benefited from private funding through a scholarship and wouldn’t be attending Longwood without the donation.

Students were able to sign a banner last week to thank donors, as well as thank you notes to specific donors.

“(We want students to) show you believe in Longwood and the mission we move forward everyday with, and you are willing to garnish the philanthropic support for Longwood,” said Harris.

On Thursday, March 3, Longwood will be hosting a ‘Love Your Longwood,’ day which is a social media audience-wide day to donate. This particular strategy is aimed at students, who have not participated in the campaign yet. This day will also be in association with the Campus Community Campaign and will go towards not only the senior class gift but towards participation for each class in the campaign statistics, as well.
Honor and Conduct Boards change voting process

BY VICTORIA WALKER
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Longwood University’s Conduct Board and Honor Board, an extension of the Student Government Association, have been working for years to improve the quality of their organizations. They came to SGA two weeks ago to propose significant constitutional changes which left the majority of the Senate uneasy.

Two weeks ago, Honor Board Chair Maggie Marshall and Conduct Board Chair Haley Talmage suggested completely eliminating the student vote from their election process. They wanted the opportunity to conduct interviews on their own and elect justices in-house.

The reasoning for the change was because certain individuals on their boards don’t take the time commitment seriously, which leaves vacancies during hearings. Often times, they do not meet quorum meaning the trial will get pushed back.

“This is a longstanding issue, it’s not nesciarily new this particular year,” said Jen Fraley, the associate dean of Conduct and Integrity. “The Honor and Conduct Board Chairs and leadership have seen in the past couple years that they’ve had a real issue with keeping people on the board that are elected through the SGA elections.”

They brought the constitution before SGA to be put to a vote, but it did not pass the first attempt. The Senate decided it was not adequate and encouraged them to regroup and come back with appropriate changes made.

Since the first attempt at making changes to the constitution failed, a Tri-Council meeting was called.

“We called the Tri-Council meeting, which is three exec members from Honor Board, the Chair and two vice chairs from Conduct Board, the SGA president, vice president and treasurer,” said Marshall. “It went a lot smoother than I thought it would go … we decided to keep the majority of the process we were proposing but there was a few tweaks and modifications to that process.”

It took about 20 minutes of debate until they came to a conclusion, the rest of the time was spent on nailing out specific details. They reached a conclusion which was agreed on unanimously.

The new changes were proposed to senate by Maggie Marshall, Constance Garner and Jessica Darst. They updated Senate on the new conclusion and voted on it in SGA’s meeting on March 1 and it will take effect immediately. The process will not have as much time as it will next year, but the application process will open as soon as Dr. Tim Pierson, the vice president of Student Affairs, sends it out to all students.

These changes are meant to help ensure people who run for office treat their positions with the utmost regard.

Marshall explained that this week, the week of Feb. 29, and next week are opened for nominations. After students apply, Honor Board and Conduct Board will review and interview the applicants and narrow down the applicants. The Honor Board chair, vice chair, secretary, then one student who doesn’t have a position will be responsible for reviewing Honor Board applicants and the Conduct Board chair, the two vice chairs and one justice will be responsible for reviewing Conduct Board applicants.

You can still apply for both organizations, but you may only serve on one branch.

After this occurs, all of the remaining applicants will be placed on the SGA ballot as they would have any other election.

“From the first go around, there was not going to be a student body vote,” Marshall stated.

They originally wanted it to be all in-house within Conduct and Honor board, eliminating the students’ option to vote, but she ensured the process will not be taking any of the power out of students’ hands.

“I believe this was the perfect compromise for SGA, Honor and Conduct board,” said Jessica Darst, SGA treasurer and Tri-Council member. “My biggest concern was that students were going to lose their right to vote, and as a representative of the student body, I think the last thing they wanted was to lose their vote.”

Farmville PD gives students a look into law enforcement

BY BRIANA ADHIKUSUMA
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The Farmville Police Department has implemented a program called the Law Enforcement Explorer Post program. The program is affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America and gives students a look into careers involving law enforcement.

“It gives them the hands-on and the knowledge. It’s not what they see on TV. So that’s what we’re trying to incorporate, that way they can see exactly what police officers do. Some of it’s glory, some of it’s not. I mean, we’re just trying to bring that to them, so they know,” said Officer Christie Booth.

Around two years ago, the program was initially started in Farmville by Officer Barry Radden and Booth. When Radden relocated, the program died, according to Booth. Officer Gary Williams and Booth started the program back up for Farmville.

The program currently has around 15 members, all of which are students. Roughly 13 of these students come from Longwood, while the remaining two are from high schools.

The program is not limiting the number of participants, and Booth stated that they could find bigger building spaces to meet in if they had to.

In order to participate in the program, members must pay a fee of $2 a month plus a small insurance fee. Members must also be between the ages of 14 and 21. Once a student turns 21, they can’t be considered an “explorer” and have to apply as an associate adviser instead.

According to Booth, there isn’t a significant difference between being registered as an explorer and an associate adviser except for being able to participate in local, statewide and national competitions.

“I’m not sure if this is 100 percent the way the Explorers want to do it, but we can, and that’s what we’re going to do until they tell us otherwise. We get members in here who are interested in the program, and they are associate advisers,” said Williams.

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Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton win Virginia

More than 1,100 voters show up in Farmville precincts

**Farmville's Polling Locations**
Farmville residents came and went from polling locations on Tuesday to submit their ballots for the Virginia primaries. Out of three Farmville precincts, more than 1,100 voters showed up to vote for the candidate of their choice. The polling location at the Farmville Fire Department had received around 492 voters around 5:30 p.m. Pauly Hollingsworth, the Chief Officer of the precinct, said that the number of students voting had increased for primaries since past years.

Although the number of voting students has increased, Hollingsworth said that a number of students had to be turned away because they weren't registered in that precinct. Hollingsworth stated that students had showed up with different issues, such as being unaware that they had to vote in their own precinct.

Hollingsworth said that another issue was that students who registered to vote during events on Longwood's campus had registered with their home address, rather than their campus address. This meant that they could not vote in the Farmville precincts unless their home address was within those precincts.

The polling locations at the Prince Edward Elks Lodge and the Farmville Bus Station came across the same issues with students, as well also seeing an increase in student voters for the primaries.

The Prince Edward Elks Lodge had received 181 voters around 5:00 p.m. The poll workers there estimated there was around 30 students out of the 181 voters who had voted so far.

The Farmville Bus Station had received 469 voters around 6:00 p.m. The county had an estimate of 62 poll workers for the county. At each of the polling locations mentioned above, there were about five or six poll workers. These workers are stationed at the polling locations from 5:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

According to Hollingsworth, poll workers are paid, but are given under minimum wage.

Hollingsworth stated that dual primaries make the polling process a little more difficult and complicated for poll workers. In order to submit a ballot, voters needed to tell poll workers whether they were voting in the Republican or the Democratic caucus. Hollingsworth said that this had created some conflict and that some citizens left before voting because they didn't want to say which caucus they were voting in.

**The Results**
Donald Trump won the Republican caucus in Virginia, while Hillary Clinton took the win for the Democratic caucus. According to The New York Times, in Prince Edward County, Clinton won Virginia overall with a total of 504,104 votes and 64.3 percent of the votes. Trump received 853 votes and 41.4 percent of the votes within Prince Edward County, according to The New York Times, while Marco Rubio won 617 votes and 30 percent of the votes.

Ted Cruz received 326 votes and 15.8 percent of the votes, while John Kasich received 124 votes and six percent of the votes. Ben Carson did not receive any votes within Prince Edward County. Trump won Virginia with around 356,025 votes and roughly 34.7 percent, according to the New York Times (data was taken without one precinct reporting.)

According to USA Today, Trump has won a significant number of delegates and is in the lead of the Republican Party with 258 delegates; 1,237 delegates are needed for the nomination. Cruz runs in second with 110 delegates. Clinton holds a lead over Sanders with 508 delegates, while Sanders has won 295 delegates; 2,382 delegates are needed for the nomination.

Many news sources have predicted that Trump and Clinton will win the party nominations, but others have stated that Cruz or Rubio, and Sanders could pull through for the nominations.
This week’s meeting focused on a new proposal, which was brought by the Honor and Conduct Boards in regard to their election process.

President Constance Garner, Vice President Jacob Harvey, Treasurer Jessica Darst and the Chairs of both the Honor and Conduct board served as a tri-council to establish a new election process.

The new election process will include the first two weeks of February to act as a nomination process for new members for both boards.

These nominations will come from students, faculty and staff and will close on February 13 at 11:59 p.m. Applications will then be sent out to those who have been nominated. On March 1, the Honor and Conduct Boards will then start reviewing the applications to narrow down students to put on the ballot, which will consist of three to four names.

The candidates will then be given a two-week campaign period, which coincides with SGA elections that are open to the student body.

This process will go into effect this year with some time restraints given that February has already past. Those candidates who are seeking to return to the Boards will have different questions on their application.

The SGA approved the motion of the election process for the Honor and Conduct Boards.

Some debate surfaced when Treasurer Darst proposed the budget for the 2016-2017 school year. Some of the tier one organizations such as Lancer Productions, Mortar Board and WMLU were given budget cuts from the budget meeting, which took place over the weekend. Representatives from those organizations were in attendance to debate the reason as to why they received cuts.

Lancer Productions was originally deducted $10,000 from their general programming budget from $70,000 to $60,000. The representative suggested to deduct the needed amount from headline speakers totaling at $8,000, and the “Snowball” event that will add the $10,000 originally deducted back into the general programming budget.

A member of SGA suggested that if Lancer Productions was in need of more allocated funds, they should attend the Student Finance Committee (SFC) weekly meetings to ask for those funds.

Mortar Board was originally deducted $10,000 from $75,000 to $65,000 for band compensation for Oktoberfest. The two representatives who were in attendance voiced concern with how the organization was struggling to find the necessary funds for bands this past Oktoberfest.

WMLU received deductions from $76,000 to $66,000 for band payment. The organization is changing their timeframe in which musical acts will go on during Battle of the Bands and Bandfest. They are also looking to have a smaller lineup to accommodate this deduction.

The tier one organizations that did not receive budget cuts were Longwood Ambassadors, Conduct Board, Residential and Commuter Life (RCL), The Rotunda and Student Educators for Active Leadership.

The SGA cannot approve the budget for the 2016-2017 school year until the next SGA meeting.

The motion was approved by the SGA to allocate $1,000 to the SGA for Democracy Day publicity for the debate committee. This will fund buttons and koozies that display the SGA logo.

The constitution of Chi Sigma Iota was passed. The constitution change will allow graduate students to work together on their studies.
The Rotunda Online.com
FPD student demo

Although it is accepted nationally, the local Farmville post won't be having firearms as a part of their program. “We're steering away from any firearm-type shooting, not saying we won't use simulated weapons, ‘toy guns’ for the lack of a better word,” said Williams. The members have had the opportunity to hear from and talk with officials from the Drug Enforcement Administration, border patrol, state police, the Farmville Police Department, rescue squads and Commonwealth’s attorneys. The members are also able to participate in different simulated activities such as building searches, traffic control, crowd control and canine demos. “The whole point of the Explorer Post is to give them a reality. A lot of people have dreams about what jobs they want and their visions of pursuing a job, and then they focus all their energy into getting there and having a sense of who’s who, when they go for their interviews and they’re already familiar faces. This is what really sets students apart in the application process, from thousands of other applicants.”

In addition to connecting with law schools, the society also connects with legal professionals and in doing so, have brought in big name speakers and professionals who speak pro bono. They have had a live video conference with Sebastian Amar, assistant district attorney with the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights, Real Estate Specialist Bob Schultz, and Jason Harbour, attorney and partner for Hunton & Williams law firm. On Monday, the Pre-Law Society hosted guest speaker Lance Barrett, the son of the College of Business & Economics Dean Paul T. Barrett and one of the top Securities and Exchange Commission violations attorney from the Vanguard Group Inc., where he deals with a lot of white-collar crimes.

Another sign of the club’s success is that members of the society have actually gained internships with many of the speakers they have hosted. In addition, Magid has received emails from students who attended the events expressing their gratitude and how listening to the speakers gave them insight into what they wanted to do with their careers.

“What we’ve kind of done with this law club… now the Pre-Law Society, it’s grown dramatically. We’ve become the pinnacle of undergraduate legal education in the state of Virginia,” said Magid. “We’re doing things that no other organization or university is doing for their undergraduate legal program and we’re really proud of that.”

He added, “We have now put Longwood University, other than the VP Debate, on the map for pre-law concentration.”

What’s even more incredible is how the organization has managed to do all these things without funding from the Student Government Association (SGA). The only funding they have comes various fundraisers and the fees of their 38 members, which is just $20 per semester. Magid explained that the organization itself doesn’t need much money to run. The member fees are used to give each speaker a personalized engraved crystal award, which he believes further adds to the organization’s reputation of professionalism and the relationship with the speakers. For the immediate future, Magid does not believe that the organization will need SGA funding.

The Society has also worked to gain connections with five departments on campus including the College of Business and Economics, the Criminal Justice department, and the Education department. In the future they hope to build more connections with other departments as well as other clubs and organizations on campus.

Magid stated of the club as a whole: “We try to hold ourselves to the highest level of honor and integrity and really live by the Honor Code here at the university. If we’re the law club, we need to be that cornerstone of honor and integrity and we definitely hold up high to that.”

He added that he is most proud of how the students have gotten involved with the club and grown as students.

—continued on the rotunda online
Downtown Farmville to host SOUP event

BY EMILY CARROLL
FEATURES STAFF

Farmville hopes to get a makeover for its downtown area in the near future and it’s looking to community members for suggestions.

Farmville will be hosting the SOUP proposal event from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on April 1, at the Longwood Center for Visual Arts (LCVA). With the payment of $5, people will get to hear proposals regarding ideas to better improve downtown Farmville and be provided a soup dinner while the voting on proposals for projects takes place.

These proposals can be any project thought up from scratch that one would like to take part in, in which said project will benefit and improve the town of Farmville. The application can be found and submitted on the official SOUP event website (farmvilledowntown.com/soup). If one’s proposal makes it to the final vote and is selected on the night of the event, then that proposal will receive a minimum grant of $1,000 for the proposed project they wish to pursue. Not only are the citizens in the community strongly encouraged to take part in this event, but Longwood students and organizations are more than welcome to pursue a role in the SOUP event as well. Any idea is welcome to help improve downtown Farmville.

The idea for the SOUP proposal began when “four people gathered around and came up with ideas on how to get involved with the Farmville community,” said Hosterman.

One person from the group recalled some well-received events in which one pays a certain amount of money to vote on a soup, then that soup would be featured in a community potluck dinner. The four then amended that idea and then came up with the SOUP proposal.

“One of the biggest things that this proposal is trying to do is bring together the community again,” stated Alec Hosterman, who is mostly on the public relations side of this proposal, as well as chairing up the committee who will select winners of the grants. The committee will be a panel of four people from the community who will select the winners of the proposal.

“It really is a committee made up of people from the area,” stated Hosterman.

Proposing ideas would also be a good opportunity for “…students to take an idea and begin that project from scratch and they could see that idea implemented in the town in which students will also graduate from Longwood with an even larger lasting impact by being able to come back in a year or two and being able to say, I completed that project which benefitted not only Longwood, but the town of Farmville,” stated Hosterman.

Some things the committee takes into consideration when selecting the finalists are how the particular group is going to use those funds to help carry out the project they would like to pursue, as well as the time frame in which the project can be completed. The guidelines for the proposals are included in the application.

The predictions of which kind of proposals will be presented are still a mystery, however.

“It will be nice to be able to have some of the proposals completed fairly quickly seeing the debate is coming into town and the national media will be at Farmville’s doorstep,” Hosterman said.

If you would like to make a proposal, the deadline for applications will be on March 21.

Arvin Mitchell comes to Longwood

DISCLAIMER: This content contains inappropriate language

BY DAVID PETTYJOHN
ABE STAFF @PETTYJOHNDAVID

The most recent comedian to visit Longwood is Arvin Mitchell, the former star of BET’s “Club Comic View” and Kevin Hart’s “One Mic Stand.” Just about all of the Student Union Ballroom was filled, and everyone who came seemed to love the show.

The key to Mitchell’s Friday night success was his ability to make even the most controversial of subjects funny. For example, he told a story of when he was in his apartment and he saw a man on his cell phone get hit by a car.

“He was walking down the street, talking on his phone, got hit by a car, he was still on the phone!”

He also gave a hilarious imitation of the pedestrian’s reaction to getting hit.

“I’m bleeding, man, this dude just hit me! Can you call 911, man? ‘K, thanks.”

He continued this exploration of touchy subjects by going into the allegations leveled at Bill Cosby.

“I was thinking about his voice, it kind of made him seem guilty. If you have a smooth voice, like a player, or a laid-back voice, like President Barack Obama, it’s easy to get a woman to come back to your room.”

He then did an excellent impression of the president:

“Uh, uh, Michelle? I’ve put Malia and Sasha to sleep, and I’m I’m I’m I’m I’m ready to get it on. I’m ready to get down with the get down. Let’s go to Air Force One and do our thing.”

He said that “If you had a voice like Bill Cosby, you just might have to persuade a woman with a pill.”

As an example, he did an impression of Bill Cosby trying to convince a woman to have sex with him.

He also talked about the time that he was in college back in 1991, the military recruiters came by, and being gay or a college student would exclude him from joining the armed forces. He then imitated a lisp and the flamboyance commonly associated with gay men.

Yet not all of Mitchell’s performance was controversial, and he was able to spread out the more controversial topics among ones that were much more PG. This pacing allowed him to embrace a wider range of topics, such as his experiences when flying.

One of the stories he told about flying was when he noticed that a man who was with him on the plane did not wash his hands after leaving the bathroom.

He told the man to wash his hands, to which the man said, “Imma beat your ass!”

Mitchell replied with “Not with those nasty hands, you aren’t!”

Mitchell has been working in the standup comedy business since his sister first encouraged him to try it out.

“She kept telling me I should get on stage and people at my job kept telling me the same thing, so I took a shot at it, and it worked out.”

Before working in comedy, he worked at Sam’s Membership Club as a maintenance man, and he also was the deliveryman, delivering tires. “I was just funny at work, and people kept telling me to take it to the stage,” he remarked.

His time on the stage at Longwood proved that they were right to point him to comedy.
Humans of Longwood: Darcy Grogan

BY KIERSTEN FREEDMAN
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While Virginia has not always been home for Darcy Grogan, Longwood is where she stopped to catch her breath and found her new home. Grogan was born in Dallas, Texas and she moved to Chesterfield, Virginia in her middle school years, staying throughout her high school years. While her parents moved on to California, Grogan chose to stick to small town Virginia for college.

“Virginia is my favorite place that I’ve lived,” said Grogan.

She spent a semester at Radford University before she realized she was unhappy there. Coming to Longwood, Grogan “knew (Longwood) was just perfect for (me).”

Whether she’s in the Zeta Tau Alpha chapter room or at the tables upstairs in the Hull building, “it feels like home.”

Grogan is a liberal studies major with a minor in English, which she chose after a recent switch from special education.

“I thought that being a (special education) teacher was the only way I could be involved with kids with special needs,” Grogan said.

Grogan voiced concerns about the lack of patience that teachers have for students with slight learning disabilities, such as Attention Deficit Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and she doesn’t want to be seen as a substitute for general education teachers.

She wants “to do what she loves... and become a guidance counselor.”

Grogan is also a newly initiated sister of Zeta Tau Alpha, which she admires for the customs, being that Longwood is the Alpha chapter of the sorority. The history of the sorority intrigues her, especially Jumper Day, in which the sisters wear their sorority’s colors on a dyed white dress. Stemming from the beginning of Greek life at Longwood, Jumper Day is a valued tradition for sororities.

When not with her Greek sisters, Grogan finds herself with her other “sister,” Jamariah. Grogan is a member of the Big Siblings club, where she mentors a local student once a week and is “a positive influence on (her) life and encourages (her little sibling) to be the best that she can be.”

About her “little,” Grogan related, “she’ll talk about anything and just listening to her explain things, even how she lost her tooth, is interesting.”

Grogan’s love for Longwood stems from the traditions that are exclusive to the school.

She noted, “The Chi walks are awesome … my friends who go to other schools don’t have things like that to look forward to. If I mention a Chi burning, they don’t know what I’m talking about ... They’re missing out.”

NPHC’s activity hour lets students unwind

Longwood’s National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) hosted their Activity Hour on Friday, featuring a ladder toss, music and a large game of Connect Four. The NPHC, a Greek life organization specifically created with African American students in mind, puts on the Activity Hour each spring semester to conclude NPHC Week.

Senior kinesiology major Quincy Goodine came out to support the NPHC as many of his friends are a part of the council.

“They post their flyers on their social media sites and things like that, so I just decided to come see how they get down,” he said during a game of Connect Four.

Brianna Allen is a junior and the vice president of the NPHC. She is communication studies major, a Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. sister, of which she just became the vice president this past semester and has been a member of the NPHC for a year.

She explained, “Activity Hour is something that NPHC holds for the campus to just give the students a chance to unwind ... It’s something we usually do every other week. We thought that this would be a good time, considering that there are students here for Crash on Campus, to give them an insight on what NPHC is all about.”

She also noted that, normally, the students are able to sit on the steps of the Lankford Student Union and watch the members perform their step routines. However, they were not able to do so this time, due to the construction work being done on the building and the scaffolding blocking the steps. To make up for this, they had to adapt by borrowing the ladder toss and Connect Four games from Fraternity and Sorority Life.

“This time, we decided to bring out games, so there’s something to do other than just sitting around and watching each other dance.”

Caitlin Close, a sophomore member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. is the president of the NPHC. She has been a member of the NPHC since last month. Close actually began her role as President when her sister had to step down from the office, and then started her own term. Since she has not been a member for very long, she has played it safe in her term so far, reusing many of the activities that have done well in the past.

With NPHC Week, there were multiple activities, such as one about “educating people about candidates in the upcoming election, and then we had a movie night last night, and then we had a ‘Know Your Rights’ session where the cops talked to us about our basic rights as citizens.”

When asked what is next for the NPHC, Close says that there will be “hopefully more activities.” She says that they have a meeting coming up where they will decide what is next for the group.
LCVA youth gala

Charlie Critzer
Grade: 2
Charlie’s piece was a self-portrait with his hair made of construction paper. However, his self-portrait had one very unique aspect. “I just thought snake teeth would be really cool,” said Charlie, with a mischievous grin. When Charlie grows up, he would like to join the army.

Sammy Finch
Grade: 6
Sammy’s piece was a unique display of color and design called a “tumbling tower.” Each color, letter and design represents an aspect of Sammy’s personality. “It’s a tumbling tower. I like all these different designs and these colors, and those are the letters in my name. When Sammy grows up, she would like to be either an artist or an actress.

Hannah “Bean” Layne
Grade: 4
Hannah, who happily explained that she goes by the name “Bean,” had a beautifully detailed painting of a wolf. She explained that “I like to draw wolves. I think they look cool.” When Hannah grows up, she wants to be a scientist.
Unlike many people, senior Communication Studies student Austin Madison discovered his love for comedy early on when he was just in high school.

Madison aspires to become a standup comic and realized that dream his junior year of high school after doing standup at a National Thespians Society induction ceremony.

“I found out we had to do a performance the night of the induction, so I went on stage and ripped off everyone else’s famous standup jokes. I think I did only one of my own jokes because I was too scared to actually do my own material,” said Madison.

Right now, Madison is performing at any local open mic shows and competitions he can be a part of, mostly in the Richmond area. Most recently, he placed third out of 15 contestants at a standup comedy competition at the Funny Bone, a premier comedy club located in Richmond, Va. During the show, Madison got five minutes to perform and joked about his current job as a waiter, selling lemonade as an 18 year-old adult, and how awkward it used to be when he was a youth wrestling referee.

This past summer, he began doing standup consistently when he moved to New York City for an internship with the Manhattan Comedy School, where he got to witness the behind the scenes operations of various comedy clubs. There, he found himself getting on stage and performing original material four or five times a week in comedy clubs throughout the city.

Madison can also assure you that all of his material is written by himself and is totally original. He stated that he does extensive cross checking after writing his material to make sure his jokes are as unique as possible and have never been done before in front of large crowds. Most of his material comes from his everyday observations such as a funny sign he sees on campus, his family or personal experiences.

Madison said, “The most important thing is to have a specific point of view. People laugh at people who can zoom in on a few things that are about everyday topics, and make fun on them from a relatable, smart point of view.”

He also admitted that when he first started doing standup, it was not as easy for him to get on stage as it is now. He attributes his developed sense of confidence that people now see when he performs on the comedy stage to being able to try different sets and jokes almost everyday in New York, saying that he has progressed in his stand up career greatly since starting, but sometimes jokes still badly bomb.

He said, “When people don't laugh, you just keep going with your material. I have bombed on more than one occasion, so when somebody doesn't laugh you have to just keep rolling through it. Having a bad set is needed because it is a huge learning experience. Even if I have a good set, I think about what I can change to get better.”

He went on to admit that working and making a living as a standup comedian is a difficult career path to find success in, but he hopes to make it to the level of a professional stand up comic, and eventually start to get paid for nightly gigs. Some of his favorite comedians are Bill Burr and “The Daily Show” host Trevor Noah.

“There is nothing better than telling jokes in front of people. I want to perform at Madison Square Garden - that’s the Mecca. To make it, you have to work crazy, crazy hard and you also have to have a fair amount of luck,” said Madison.

His ultimate goal with comedy however, is to simply make people laugh and to have fun in the process. After graduation, he plans to move back to New York City and begin doing shows regularly at local city bars in hopes of being discovered, while also working any other job that will allow him to perform every night.

He said, “Doing stand up is the only thing I have thought about doing. I have looked at so many other jobs that I don’t want to do because they are all data input, or the nights aren’t free and you need to have the nights free to do stand up. I am just going to do something to keep the lights on until I can do stand up consistently.”
The Flying Squids debut concert at Bar 202

Steven Bowman, John Die, Zeek Zedan, Doug Buchanan and Alex Pate are all Longwood students and members of the band, The Flying Squids.

Movie Review: Triple 9 (Three Stars)

Triple 9 is no melodrama, as the viewer is on edge during the entire two-hour movie as they witness betrayal after betrayal, leading to a less than happy ending. Triple 9 is cop talk for “officer down,” and this is what a crew consisting of career criminals and dirty cops need as a distraction to pull off their last heist. They are being forced to do this by the Russian–Jewish Mafia led by British actress Kate Winslet (Titanic), hoping to free her husband from prison.

The hero of the movie is Chris Allen played by Casey Affleck (Gone Baby Gone), a young Georgian officer trying to make a difference, but as his uncle, a veteran pot smoking, drug addicted, drunk cop played by the always memorable Woody Harrelson (No Country For Old Men), tells him, “You’re gonna make a difference. You ain’t gonna make a f-ing difference. Forget about that. Your job: out-monster the monster then get home at the end of the night.” The director, John Hillcoat (The Road) and screenwriter Matt Cook choose to shed more light on the lives and motivations of the criminals, showing the human side of the antagonists by furthering the plot before the viewer gets to know Affleck’s character, who navigates through the mess that is three severed heads, countless dead bodies, and a Latino Lieutenant in a Georgian project.

Triple 9 benefits from excellent performances by its star studded cast including Casey Affleck, Chiwetel Ejiofor (12 Years a Slave), Kate Winslet, Woody Harrelson, Anthony Mackie (Captain America: The Winter Soldier), and Aaron Paul (Breaking Bad), playing his usual role as a drug addict whose actions threaten to unravel everything. Triple 9 is nonstop and has enough twist and turns, violence and dirty cops to hold up with its peers in the genre. Reviews on this movie are mixed, Rotten Tomatoes gave it a score of 55%, which means about half of critics gave it a positive review. In this reviewer’s opinion, the score is low due to a grim story that neither offers nor attempts to give little hope to the audience about the state of police in America. As Nietzsche said “There is Beyond Good and Evil.” If you’re looking for a happy movie to lift your spirits, skip it, but if you’re in the mood for something gritty, well acted and with numerous plot twists, go see this movie!
Construction criticism

The building blocks of success

BY CASSIE TAGERT
Assistant Copy Editor

If you haven’t heard of President Reveley’s new master plan by now, you must have spent the past year under a rock. If you look out of a window in almost any main campus building, you can see some parts of the plan are already underway.

Despite all of the construction that is going on right now, the campus will be back to being more pleasant and comfortable soon. Under the new master plan, Longwood will feature a bunch of new buildings like the Upchurch University Center, which, much like the Lankford Student Union, will house a variety of food options and rooms for organizations to hold meetings. However, unlike the Student Union, this new center will have multiple study lounges with updated technology that will better suit students’ needs.

Aside from new buildings to improve the quality of each student's, staff member's and alumni's experience, Longwood is planning to enhance the landscape around campus. With new trees, gardens and greener grasses, walking around campus will no longer be a solely functional activity that helps one get from one place to another. It will become an experience to enjoy.

All this sounds great, but you may ask yourself, what’s the reasoning behind all of this? Building up the campus is meant to both encourage prospective students to choose Longwood and make improvements that adapt to the current members of the community’s needs. Each building in the plan has a particular function that is meant to make certain aspects of college life better.

For example, the plan proposes a new performing arts center that will enhance the experience of each performance and seat about 500 people. While we already have a few auditorium spaces, this new auditorium is meant to become a new home to the Longwood performing arts programs that the auditoriums in Wygal and the communications building just can't compete with.

With growth, Longwood will be able to better compete with other, more well-known colleges and universities around the country. As more national attention comes to our campus with the vice presidential debate in the fall, more eyes will fall upon us. This could include attention from more out-of-state students, and in an effort to gain the status that Longwood deserves as a Division I university, the new campus look could ameliorate the national view of our university.

At times, it can feel discouraging to see the muddy hill that used to be the beautiful Cunninghams or to hear the sounds of construction coming from behind the library. Unfortunately, change takes time. Construction is never a pleasant sight, but sooner than we know it, the campus will begin to resemble a newer, stronger Longwood, while still retaining that familiar glow. It’s only a matter of time.

Master plan, not so grand

BY AUSTIN BERRY
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If you have been even mildly conscious since last year, you may have, perhaps, noticed all the construction that is taking place around campus. There is really no way to miss it, as there seems to be a major development on every side of our school. All of these new expansions are part of President Reveley’s Master Plan (MUAHAHAHAHA “pets cat”) to build up Longwood, so our walk will match our talk, so-to-speak.

Personally, I think this is fantastic! I love the fact that our little, often overlooked university is growing right before our eyes, and I believe it puts us in a fantastic position to create a new future for ourselves. Change is a necessary part of life and is something that should not be feared as much as it is. However, I do have a concern with all of the updates going on around our campus.

You may recall the Great Bedford Flood of 2015, the infamous tragedy that took down a major artery of our school just before winter break (or if you aren't an art student, the one thing that happened in the art building that cut off the power -- but anyway.) It recently reoccurred when Cox Hall was also flooded, causing students to evacuate and find other accommodations for the night. Both of these events were caused by water main breaks. Some of you intrepid readers, or…reader (hi mom!) may have wondered, “Why are Longwood’s newest, most state of the art buildings the ones having these issues?” Well, simply put, the answer is, perhaps, a matter of quantity over quality.

Longwood has probably contracted out these renovations and building projects to the lowest bidder, resulting in buildings that crop up quickly and cheaply, but with little regard to quality. Corners have to be cut somewhere, and they, no doubt, are being so in these two new dorms that have sprung up in front of Arc, and this trend will probably continue into the other new buildings that are part of the 2020 plan. Just like when you buy cheap clothes from China, you get what you pay for, so welcome to the $20, ill-fitting prom dress of dorm buildings.

Another problem with the pace of this construction is space, or lack thereof. Let’s face it, people, Longwood is not a big school and Farmville is not a big town. Where the Hell are we going to put everything?! At this rate, we will either have to buy out the town or just start building underground like mole people.

Now, my undaunted readers, don’t get me wrong. I want to see Longwood grow and evolve as much as anyone, but if we continue to build at this pace with this strategy, it’s going to come back to bite us when we have to pay more to renovate these cheaply made buildings. I would much rather have quality over quantity, and not have future students and staff displaced due to more flooding or other incidents.
The life of a student-athlete is a demanding one that includes early morning practices, lifting sessions, matches both home and away, class and homework. Such a lifestyle is difficult enough to maintain on its own, but then there’s Bharani Sankar. The Longwood men’s tennis senior has as many commitments of the court as he does on it. Sankar is a business administration major and, in addition to his devotion to being a Division I student-athlete, data analyst intern at Longwood, co-founder of the Beyond the Numbers organization, previously a peer mentor, taking part in the Lancer Student Investment Fund, tutoring in mathematics and a member of both Honor Board and Theta Chi, a campus fraternity.

“You learn a lot from those (organizations) in terms of leadership roles and understanding the dynamics of how people work in a team and I’ve been able to apply that to our team and I think it’s brought a fresh perspective,” said Sankar.

Through his many involvements, Sankar has given back to the school and helped the surrounding community while maintaining a 3.5 GPA in his major and being named to the Dean’s List in the fall of 2014 and 2015. Aside from the impression he leaves on paper, his character makes him one of Longwood’s most involved and well-known student-athletes.

Pierre Tafelski, the men’s tennis head coach, has been at Longwood for less than a year, but in his short time at the school, he has seen Sankar’s influence.

“He is a very mature athlete and student, and he’s very smart … he gets along very well with everybody and I use him a little bit as an assistant coach, as well, to help me,” Tafelski said.

It isn’t just the team’s head coach who appreciates Sankar’s influential presence, but also his teammates. Having played two years with Sankar, junior Florian Ufer highlights Sankar’s ability to communicate and bridge the gap between the coach and the players.

“Men’s tennis senior Bharani Sankar represents Longwood through athletics and campus organizations. This photo was taken at Longwood’s 4-3 win over West Virginia Wesleyan.
As Presbyterian called their final timeout with 8.3 seconds remaining, Willett Hall was deafening on senior night last Thursday. Longwood senior guard Tra’Vaughn White had just sunk a clutch up-and-under layup to give Longwood a one-point lead. On the final possession, the Lancers forced the ball out to Blue Hose guard Will Adams, whose three-point attempt bounced off the rim.

The Lancer crowd’s sigh of relief came too early, as Adams grabbed his own rebound and hit a buzzer-beater jumper to give Presbyterian a 74-73 win. The crowd was silent as seniors Lotanna Nwogbo, Shaquille Johnson and White were denied the 4-3 wins over Hartford and Monmouth, respectively.

But it was the leadership and determination that Gee spoke about which enabled the team to put their senior night heartbreak behind them with a 92-81 comeback win against Radford. The Lancers overcame a 61-41 deficit with 14 minutes left to topple the Highlanders in the regular season finale, courtesy of a trio of 20-point performances from Nwogbo (29), Johnson (21), and White (20).

The win gave Longwood a 5-13 conference record and the No. 8 seed for the conference tournament, their highest ever finish. They will face No. 9 seed Charleston Southern on Mar. 3 in Buies Creek, N.C., with the winner facing No. 1 seed High Point on Mar. 4. The Lancers will look to emulate last season’s semifinal run, and Gee was clear about the key to another impressive tournament performance.

“I think our three seniors have the ability to carry us to a win against any team in our league,” said Gee. “Shaq showed that last year, Lotanna didn’t get play in the tournament last year, so he’s going to be hungry for that, and you saw what Tra’Vaughn White can do.”

Gee will rely heavily on his “Big Three” – White, Johnson and Nwogbo – with good reason: White is in the Big South top-10 in both points (13.7) and assists (2.7) per game, Johnson combines an all-around game with tournament experience, and Nwogbo was named to First Team All-Big South, with 12 double-doubles and 12.5 rebounds per game.

With Longwood’s “Big Three” at their best, alongside contributions from the rest of the roster, then the Lancers can put a bumpy regular season behind them and have a chance to find postseason play.
Seize the Dae

Redshirt-junior Daeisha Brown reaches 1,000 career points, third in DI history

BY HALLE PARKER
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Seeing space near the top of the paint with 3:58 left in the fourth quarter, Daeisha Brown drove from the right flank to just inside the free throw line to find herself in wide open space. Without pausing, the 5-foot-3 point guard released a jumper and hit her mark. No celebration followed, Brown just transitioned to defense. It was all natural for her, business as usual. However, at that moment, the redshirt-junior, who missed last season with an ACL tear, surpassed a major milestone - scoring over 1,000 career points in three years of eligibility. Brown finished the road game on Feb. 20 at Radford with 17 points, leading Longwood as the only double-digit scorer in their 80-64 loss.

"Since I tore my ACL, it has been a struggle to get back to the person I used to be on the basketball court. So, this year has been a major roller coaster, but, I mean, it does feel great that I did get this accomplishment with the setback I had," said Brown.

Entering the game, Brown was just 11 points shy of her 1,000 points, which had generated a lot of suspense in the competitions prior. During the game, Brown said she wouldn’t have known the count had it not been for long-time friend and senior guard Raven Williams keeping her on track, so they could share the moment.

Williams also started the season within range of 1,000, having led Longwood in scoring last season in Brown’s absence. After catching the injury bug, she has been limited to 103 points this season and currently sits at 893.

"’Ve been going through injuries all season and I was close to my 1,000th point, too. So, basically, we had this thing like, if I did it before her, it was for her, (and) if she did it before me, it was for me,” explained Williams. The two had been friends since they were 12-years-old and played for the same travel team. "It was that little bond that we had that what’s hers is mine.”

Williams felt reaching the milestone was a huge boost for Brown, who had lost confidence in her ability while recovering from last year’s season-ending injury.

“She doubted herself, thinking that she wasn’t going to be the same player, but she is, if not, even better because she has become a lot smarter than she was,” said Williams.

Even with the accomplishment, Brown immediately began to shake her head when asked if she felt she was at the level she had been prior to last season.

“I don’t think I’m at the level I used to be at all. With this extra year I have, I hope with the extra training that I could get back to the old Daeisha Brown.”

For Longwood women’s basketball head coach Bill Reinson, to watch Brown achieve this was “rewarding” as she struggled this season to come back and work to be the same impact player as her first two years, despite her ACL and height.

“She’s shown glimpses of being the Dae-Dae of old,” said Reinson. “She’ll finish as the leading scorer in Division I history. That’s kind of remarkable for a girl that’s 5-foot-3 and may not be that tall.”

As Brown continues to develop during the rest of the season and next year, Reinson believes she can be “a dominant force,” following the usual timeline it takes to recover from an ACL injury.

“Usually, the second year back is the one where people really start to excel, provided that everything goes well with the rehab. That means the next year could be very exciting.”

To show their support of Brown, the team wore t-shirts during warm-ups and gave her a decorated game ball commemorating her achievement prior to their final home game against Coastal Carolina on Tuesday night.

Brown said she didn’t know what milestone was next for her, just hoping for another great accomplishment before her time in the program ends.

“I just hope and pray that it only goes up from here. I hope I stay healthy and continue this journey I’m on right now.”