Ready, Set, Debate!

BY PAYTON CONWAY
FEATURE STAFF
@WWECONWAYAC

The vice presidential debate may not be for another six months, but students aren’t waiting until next semester to get into the political mindset.

The Longwood University Politics Club and the Political Science department hosted a mock presidential debate in Blackwell Hall on Wednesday for their final and biggest event of the year. Students, faculty and their families and even President Reveley, packed the hall to hear students various issues that have been featured in the debates so far.

Representing the College Republicans were Chairwoman Malina Foldesi, Stephen Alexander and Canon Cochran, while club president Joe Hyman, Danny Bartle and Danny Janousek represented the College Democrats. The moderators were Alex Magid, vice president of the Pre-Law Society Christy Tagg and Sara Nelson, president and secretary of the Politics Club.

The debate featured many real topics and issues, such as: the threat of ISIS, military spending, illegal immigration, the raising of minimum wage, education reform, gun rights and the defunding of Planned Parenthood. Tensions certainly rose among the both teams, especially during the debate over warring with other nations, the Black Lives Matter movement and Planned Parenthood (which received murmurs from the crowd at the first mention of the organization).

“Us and the Young Republicans have some very different views on some very sensitive issues, but part of the beauty of the American system is that we can talk about those differences in a public setting and be able to debate them,” Hyman stated following the debate.
New diversity statement in development

BY CHRISTINE RINDFLEISCH
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Quincy Goodine, a senior at Longwood University, with the help of a few other student-run organizations and a few faculty members, has been developing a diversity statement with the hopes of including it in Longwood University’s handbooks in the upcoming school year.

The statement titled ‘A Statement of Diversity and Inclusion’ began developing earlier this school year with the idea coming to fruition in the spring of 2015.

“Last year on campus, there were a few incidents, in my opinion, they were racially charged,” said Goodine, who is also the President of the Black Student Association (BSA).

Goodine brought his concerns to SGA as a student rather than as the president of BSA.

“I come from a family who has always taken not to discriminate as well.”

Working with primarily culturally-based organizations, Goodine, along with BSA, meets with the Hispanic Latino Association (HLA), PRIDE, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), Student Diversity and Inclusion Council (SDIC), Student Government Association (SGA), the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and a few faculty members on a weekly-basis to form the statement.

“(It is) definitely a collaborate effort to get this off the ground,” said Goodine.

The statement has received stamps of approval from the SGA and the Student Affairs office.

When the first draft of the statement was brought to the Faculty Senate meeting, Dr. Chris Bjornsen, the director of the International Studies Program, as well as Dr. Brett Martz, an assistant professor of German Romanticism, both volunteered to help with the process.

“I’m interested because of the reason that everyone should be interested, because we need more inclusion in everything around this campus,” said Bjornsen.

Bjornsen worked with the small group to develop the statement and introduce it in the Faculty Senate meeting. As a result of bringing the rough draft of the statement to the meeting, there were two editorial suggestions made by Faculty Senate. The Senate requested for Goodine to bring back the finished statement to the next meeting in two weeks.

“I want people to understand that when you come to Longwood, if this is something that you feel that you cannot abide by or this is imposing on how you live life, then maybe Longwood isn’t the place for you,” said Goodine, referring to the statement.

Once the final statement is agreed upon by all parties, the Senate would decide if they choose to endorse the statement. The endorsement is needed before it could be placed in the student handbook.

“I want it to be absorbed by the entire campus,” said Goodine.

Bjornsen stressed that he believed the statement should go in all the university handbooks at the same time. Bjornsen continued to say that the first step in the process is to have the statement be put in the student handbook. Bjornsen also wanted to see the statement in the faculty handbook, the college catalog and the website.

“We hope it affects as many people as possible to not discriminate against others,” said Bjornsen.

In order for a statement to be placed in the college catalog, the Education Planning Committee (EPC) has to approve the statement.

As far as the statement being placed in the Faculty Policies and Procedures Manual (FPPM), Bjornsen said that “putting it in there (the FPPM) would be (assurance) that faculty are not to discriminate as well.”

The Senate will revisit the statement on Thursday, April 21.
Hard to learn in Hardy House, students say

Students and faculty have issues with using building as lab due to historical status restraints

In 2008, Longwood acquired the house to be used for the Conferences and Scheduling department, which had just expanded and needed more space, according to Director of Conferences and Event Services Darlene Bratcher.

In the summer of 2008, the computer science program was given the basement to use as a space for a computer lab.

According to Dr. Robert Marmorstein, associate professor of computer science, this move was initially a huge improvement for the program, which previously shared a lab with the Registrar’s office, and students were unable to access the building after 5:00 pm. However, over the next few years, the program's enrollment gradually grew until it reached its current number of 76 students.

Currently, the lab is only equipped for 25 people at once which became a problem for the current 76 students. According to Marmorstein, it’s difficult to have an entire class in the space and also provide space for any other students who need to work on their projects outside of class.

The lab is split into four rooms, separated by walls, as the basement was originally designed as an apartment which included a kitchen, bathroom and four rooms to be used as living space.

“The way the lab is setup now, since it was the basement of a house and split into rooms that is inadequate for a classroom-type environment because the professor has to walk between rooms, and not everybody can hear the conversation that is going on. It breaks up the classroom aspect of it, which makes it harder to learn,” said Longwood senior and computer science major Hunter Plumley.

Without the ability to use the building as a proper classroom, the students are forced to learn outside of the lab without any hands-on practice until a project comes up. This becomes a problem when students attempt to actually write code.

“When it comes down to projects, we don't get that experience of actually doing it in the classroom since we’re just listening to a lecture (in the classrooms in Ruffner), and that causes a lot of confusion and makes the projects a lot harder,” said Plumley.

According to Marmorstein, the small size of the individual rooms in the house also prevents the program from mounting a projector or whiteboard onto the ceiling or walls because there isn't enough space for them. Currently, they have a freestanding whiteboard but, according to Plumley, the lack of a projector is a hindrance to the students’ abilities to work on their projects.

The building also lacks ports in the walls for wires, which according to Marmorstein, they are unable to install due to lack of funds in the department's budget.

—continued on page 4

Financial Column

Why McDonald’s might start crashing

An article was published yesterday by Ken Goldberg of TheStreet.com titled “Charts: McDonald’s Stock is about to Tank.” This title name is shocking enough as it is, but through the use of some number crunching and pointing a few things out on some charts, he predicts that McDonald’s stock is soon going to be dropping significantly, up to almost half the current price.

Sparing all the details of the article, the main point he suggests is that there is a correction for McDonald’s coming due to its recent gains and a few other factors.

On top of the market signals that the analyst sees, the fall is likely at some point due to their lack in sales and continual slowing of growth.

For the past few quarters, McDonald’s has announced the closing of hundreds of stores throughout the world, and this has stunted growth because as they open other stores as the closing of their stores haven’t allowed much room for improvement.

They haven’t made significant improvements to gain back customers, as millennials move towards other casual fast food restaurants such as Panera and Chipotle.

Their stock price is currently trading at $122 per share, and it could drop to around $60 as some analysts predict.

We’ll see what happens in the future, but it appears as though a correction is coming for McDonald’s in the future that has built up for a while.

Justin Parker has been a consistent contributor on financial matters, specializing in stock and business advice.
New residence halls set complete in July

Student enrollment increasing has caused a need for more on-campus housing, which are being constructed in behind the Greenwood Library.

The two residence halls are named after Mark and Wilma Register Sharp ’66, after the couple donated a generous gift of $2 million towards the Cormier Honors College. The new residence halls take the names of Sharp Hall and Register Hall, honoring the couple’s generosity.

Construction for the two halls started in May 2015 and are located directly in front of Arc Hall just behind the Greenwood Library. In between Sharp and Register Halls, there will be a common area which is shared with Arc.

“There is a really nice courtyard between the two, so I think that is going to really encourage a sort of sense of community,” said Kim Bass, Major Construction Project Manager.

The halls are designed similar to other residence halls on campus, such as Arc and Cox.

The bottom floor of the residence halls will consist of lounges, a common laundry room, a staff check in office, four-bedroom residence suites, and apartments for the residence life coordinators and staff members. There is a two-bedroom apartment in one of the residence halls and the other holds a one-bedroom apartment for the residence hall coordinators. The rest of the residence hall, floors two through four, is set up as suite style rooms and each floor has a lounge or kitchenette area.

Each suite has two bedrooms which share a bathroom. Bass added that the layout is set up in the hopes of allowing for more than one person to have access to the bathroom while still maintaining privacy.

Each room is approximately 11x16 feet and holds two beds, two desks, and two wardrobes instead of closets. The halls are equipped to hold about 200 students, roughly 112 beds per residence hall.

“The new construction (is) to incorporate those very traditional Longwood elements. So you see them (buildings) … are all designed to look closely like the Longwood traditional building design,” said Jerry Jerome, the Facilities Planner and Master Plan Coordinator.

The exterior design consists of a red roof, traditional brickwork, pillars, and traditional windows to incorporate into the current look of campus.

After construction of the halls is finished, the residence halls will need to be filled with furniture which the university has under contract and will be delivered after construction is complete.

Along with the finishing interior touches, the landscaping for the courtyard and areas outside will also undergo finishing touches with the help of grounds keeping.

The halls are set to be completed in July and will open for the fall 2016 semester.

Hardy House —continued from page 3

Instead, they hang all of the wires they use from holes in a drop ceiling. The loose wires have been known to snag on items or trip students while working in the lab, creating a possible hazardous working environment.

“Given the age of it, the room gets hot really quickly because there’s not any real air conditioning down there. The rooms are very small and cramped. It has really poor lighting. It’s just a very uncomfortable place to work,” said Eric Whitehead, a Longwood senior and computer science major.

The Director of Physical Plant, Ben Myers, stated that Facilities Management was unaware of these issues, but said that the databases could be searched to see if any work orders were filed.

According to Marmorstein, the leaking air conditioners have damaged equipment as well.

“From time to time, the drains back up and we get water on the floor. We have to keep the systems off of the floor, just in case. The air conditioners frequently leak. The air conditioner backs up, and water will actually pour out of the air conditioners onto some of our equipment. That’s happened at least twice,” said Marmorstein.

The mathematics and computer science department and Real Property departments have acknowledged the problem and begun plans of possibly moving the lab on campus, according to Dr. David Shoenthal, the department chair of Longwood’s Mathematics and Computer Science department.

“It would be a much more conducive environment for a lab than the way the Hardy House is configured right now,” said Shoenthal.

According to Shoenthal, the possibility of the lab being moved has currently been put on hold with Longwood’s need to use all resources in preparation for the vice presidential debate in October.
BRIEFS

April 13, 2016

SFC Report: April 7

BY CHRISTINE RINNFLEISCH
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

$1,114.11
Sigma Gamma Rho
-Funds will be used for a mandatory conference from April 21-24
-Conference will be held in Charlotte, NC
-Purpose of conference is to teach how to induct new members into the organization
The SFC passed the motion to SGA for a vote. SGA approved the motion.

$100
Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship
-Reallocated funds will be used for a spring formal that is open to everyone
-Funds will be used for giveaways at the event
-The formal is on Friday, April 15
-The organization is reallocating the funds from a previous event and using the funds for the formal
The SFC passed the motion to SGA for a vote, but asked for a breakdown of the allocated funds since SFC typically does not fund decorations. SGA approved the motion.

$1,017
The Rotunda
-Reallocated funds will be used for reimbursement for lost funds to end a previous contract
-The contract did not provide the proper services and needed to be ended
-The funds were initially pulled from conference allocation
The SFC passed the motion to SGA for a vote. SGA approved the motion.

$141.18
Longwood Ambassadors
-Funds will be used to purchase new polos with the Longwood Ambassadors logo
-The organization accepted more members and needs to have additional polos for new members
-The funds will provide for 16 polos
The SFC passed the motion to SGA for a vote.

$2,234
WMLU
-Reallocated funds will be taken from band compensation and moved to web streaming
-The bills from the web streaming need to be taken care of first to provide for upcoming Bandfest since the organization under-budgeted
The SFC did not vote on the motion in this week's meeting; however, the motion was brought to SGA and was passed.

SGA Brief: April 12

BY CHRISTINE RINNFLEISCH
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Ann Polek | PHOTO EDITOR

SGA discusses vandalism around campus in Tuesday’s meeting.

By Christine Rindfleisch
Assistant News Editor

The focus of this week’s meeting was on the vandalism around campus that took place last Tuesday night, which was then noticed on Wednesday morning. The vandalism was the writing of “Trump 2016” and “Bernie 2016” in chalk around campus.

Dr. Tim Pierson, the vice president of Student Affairs, commented not only was it vandalism, but said it was also a hassle for the maintenance department on campus to remove the problem, which took away from other daily maintenance tasks around campus.

Senator Mark Barham inquired as to what the avenue is for students to express their first amendment rights of the freedom of speech on Longwood University’s campus.

Pierson added that the designated area on campus for students to exercise their freedom of speech rights is behind the student union.

Barham suggested that there should be a free speech board behind the student union that allows for students to express their feelings about anything.

Pierson added this could lead to students abusing their rights and using the board to write inappropriate comments on it.

Barham replied that just because of the fear that students may abuse the rights doesn’t mean that the board shouldn’t be placed.

Vice President Jacob Harvey brought up the recent installation of the fences around campus and expressed the wish that they had been put up after Spring Weekend to not cause a disruption to the events.

Senator Liz Greenwood mentioned that the fences have eliminated multiple spaces for commuters to park.

Executive Senator Chyanne Trowell brought up that multiple drinking fountains around campus have low water pressure and are dirty.

Senator Morgan Rollins added that she had noticed that several of the fountains contained mold in them and felt this was unacceptable.

David Love, director of Landscaping and Grounds Management, mentioned that the air conditioning will be turned on and the heat turned off on Friday.

The next SGA meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 19 at 3:45 p.m. in the ABC rooms of the Student Union.
High, high heels

Third annual “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” event supports victims of sexual assault

It’s a subject that has been changing the way students look at college campuses and society in general; to help bring the issues of sexual assault and rape to light, the Office of Diversity and held their third annual “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” on Thursday. The mile-long walk featured men in high heels demonstrating their commitment to end the issue of sexual violence at Longwood, as well as in general society.

Starting on Brock Commons and wrapping around the western border of the campus, the route was dotted with signs that showed the national statistics regarding rape and sexual assault. There was also a person walking alongside the men, honking a horn every 107 seconds representing the amount of time that passes between each sexual assault.

“I want you to take time to think and ponder about how often this is happening,” said Courtney Addison, the associate director of Diversity and Inclusion to the attendees.

She also pointed out that, despite the event being called “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes,” women are not the only victims of sexual assault and rape. She reminded the attendees that men are also victims, as well as members from the LGBT community. She felt that it is important to recognize that these groups are victimized as well.

She added, “We are walking for them as well…We’re walking for any victim or survivor of sexual assault.”

Also present was Elizabeth Chassey, the sexual assault program director from Madeline’s House, a domestic violence shelter in Blackstone, Virginia. Chassey explained that Madeline’s House helps survivors of sexual violence to “pick up the pieces” by offering counseling services.

Sophomore Cody Slaughter, who participated in the event, said that going downhill was much easier compared to uphill, which was “hard as hell.”

Slaughter felt that the biggest factor in getting him out to support the event was seeing the enthusiasm that everyone else had for it. Sophomore Brandon Brinsfield thought it would be a fun experience to come out and understand the purpose of the event.

Each man that participated in the event wore a sign with the number 107 (the number of seconds that pass between each sexual assault that takes place), as well as a phrase signifying what they walk to support. Slaughter’s sign said “the ones I love,” because many of the women that are close to him have been victims of sexual violence. Brinsfield’s sign said that he walked for “female equality,” because he was always raised to understand that “women should be equal to men, and should be treated with respect.”

Addison, the associate director of Diversity and Inclusion, was one of coordinators of the event. Before coming to Longwood, she was a big advocate for issues like this, so she was disappointed at the lack of events Longwood held compared to her previous institution. However, She was incredibly glad at the ever growing number of people who are taking interest in the event.

“The first year we had maybe around 30-35 people; the second year we had a round 50 people. This year… we had over 80 people show up for this year’s event,” said Addison

While nationally, 30 percent of sexual assaults are reported according to the signs on the trail, Longwood underperforms in this area and reports only 5 percent of its assaults.

This is improving, according to Addison, particularly marked by Jen Fraley “taking over the Title IX position, and really making the reporting process more streamlined, there has been a large increase in the amount of students that are reporting.”

Humans of Longwood:
Kat Plucinski

“I’m bald… I shaved my hair for cancer. I raised about $1,000 for (children’s) cancer through an organization called St. Baldrick’s. It’s a really awesome foundation, and (children’s) cancer is so underfunded, it’s ridiculous. Most of the money goes towards non-invasive procedures because it’s really bad for young children. I went to an event in Franklin, Va. I drove to a random town an hour away from home. I didn’t know anyone there, but they welcomed me with open arms. And they gave me so much money! They put buckets at your feet (while they shave your head) and that’s where I raised $600. I looked down and there were… twenties everywhere. It was crazy! It was a really great experience, and I’m glad I did it. I miss my hair now, but it was for a good cause.”
Mock Debate

—CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The audience was also able to get involved by live-tweeting their questions to the Politics Club’s twitter account, two of which were used as questions for the debate.

To finish off the mock debate, there was a mock election, in which members of the audience voted for the team they thought presented the better argument. As the votes were being tallied, the members of both debate teams were asked which candidate they supported in the presidential race. All three members of the College Democrats stated that Bernie Sanders was their candidate. The three College Republicans varied; Cochran stated that he was hoping for Rand Paul, Foldesi had been an avid Marco Rubio supporter, and Alexander was for Ted Cruz.

While the teams were in disagreement throughout most of the night, there was one issue that both teams agreed on: none of them support Donald Trump in the presidential race.

Once the votes were counted, the mock election showed that the audience was essentially split amongst the two parties, Republicans receiving 76 votes edging out the Democrats by just 10 votes.

After the debate, Foldesi stated, “I hope that (the audience) got a little bit of a political knowledge about each party, understand a little more about the parties, but I also hope that that will lead them to get more involved in politics.”

Hyman added, “I hope that they can realize that politics is more than just Donald Trump raving at the TV. I hope they realize that their vote matters and...that they see that the American political process is something unique, something special and something that needs to be cherished and...if they step up and take the initiative, (then) every vote can make a difference.”

Due to the massive response and attendance, Magid and Tagg both stated that the Politics Club hopes to turn the mock debate into an annual event.

FBI drops by

BY PAYTON CONWAY

While initially, it may seem unconventional to have a federal government agent give a talk to a student in an English class, it may not be when considering the issue of social media.

This semester, the theme of English 400 courses is discussing the pros and cons of a social media presence. To give more of a professional outlook on the topic, Professor Elise Green of the English and modern language department brought FBI special agent in charge Adam Lee to her English classes and others to talk about the consequences of being active in social media. In addition, he also held a recruitment information session, where he discussed his life and work within the bureau.

After spending several years as a legislative attorney in California, Lee became an FBI agent in 1996 and underwent training at Quantico (which he joked was a lot less sexy than the TV show). He worked for several years in their national cyber security program during his early stages. In addition, he also managed the public corruption and civil rights programs within the Bureau during the Trayvon Martin incident, the IRS/Tea Party case and the trial of former Virginia Governor Bob McDonal. Currently, Lee works in the Richmond division, where he runs all the FBI operations in Virginia, excluding the Norfolk and D.C. areas.

During his talk, he explained the concept of the FBI and what they do. The Bureau is essentially three agencies in one: national security, criminal investigation and intelligence. The FBI’s first priority is “to prevent the next terrorist attack in the United States.” Their second priority is to prevent other countries from spying and gaining intelligence on the U.S. followed by national cyber security, investigating the corruption of elected officials (public corruption) and the violations of civil rights.

“I liked the way he connected social media and how they used it to hire people. Everyone knows the bad it can do, but not the good. Like you can make a virtual resume by posting everything you’re involved in,” said Alex Reuschling, one of the students in the English 400 class, “Another thing I liked was the way he explained how the FBI was nothing like I expected.”

Lee emphasized that the FBI is not a law enforcement agency, but often helps local law enforcement agencies with their cases, such as the Richmond branch helping with the Hannah Graham case.

When it comes to numbers, the Bureau is one quarter the size of the New York Police Department, as they want to remain effectively small and not be a large Gestapo. Lee stated that one big common misconception among the public is that the FBI is ‘Big Brother’ watching everyone.

“We are threat-focused and threat-driven and to the extent we expend one ounce of effort on something that is not a credible threat, we are wasting our efforts. I really want folks not to think of us as some vague national security element out there they don’t understand and know that we are there to keep them safe…We are not interested in violating anybody’s privacy or civil liberties, in fact we investigate those crimes.”

In his recruitment session, Lee encouraged the students to look at all the options and benefits the Bureau could give them, but warned that the competition for the jobs is steep. For those who are seeking employment with the Bureau as a field agent, the requirements involve strict drug usage restrictions, a four-year degree, 3 years of professional work experience, but can be reduced to two years, if you specialize in law, accounting, cyber security or any language, such as Mandarin Chinese, Farsi or Arabic.

Lee suggested that should anyone have even the slightest interest in being employed by the FBI to visit fbi.gov. For those who know that they meet the requirements listed above, he suggested to call a field office and get in contact with a recruiter.
To save or to strand

Professors debate the necessity of their subject area in a Tuesday night showdown

On Tuesday, April 12, the Raft debate between four different Longwood teachers, each representing the different types of majors on campus. In this debate, three of the four teachers had to make an argument as to why they should be allowed to be on the raft, while the rest should stay shipwrecked on an island. This was Longwood’s fourth annual raft debate, a debate tradition that has had success at many other universities, such as William and Mary.

Dr. Bill Abrams of the math and computer science department moderated the debate. Dr. Julian Dymacek represented natural sciences from computer science. The humanities, sociology and fine arts were argued by Dr. Jeffrey Spicer, an English professor. The department of business, economics, education and human services was supported by Dr. Christopher Jones, and Dr. Alec Hosterman from the communication studies department played devil’s advocate and argued that everyone should drown. Once the arguments were over, there were rebuttals by each professor and the audience then voted by clapping.

The debate opened with Dr. Jones arguing in favor of his department. He went over some of the mistakes he made last time, such as when he twerked during the debate and was giving a strict talking-to by the dean. He admitted that he could not compete with the other departments and cited the achievements of the other departments. He did not feel that he could compete with people who have published plays, taken their students on archeological digs or talked about medieval torture on NPR. He also felt that staying on the island would be better than life back at home because he would be eating lobster and listening to Jimmy Buffett’s “Margaritaville” rather than eating fast food and listening to “I Can’t Feel My Face” by The Weeknd. Instead of defending his department, he argued that the other departments should receive the funding.

The next argument came from Dymacek, who explained what computer science is and the algorithms used in his field are also used in everyday life, even if a computer is not involved. An interesting point he made in with Longwood’s vice presidential debate. He said that picking a new president is determined by an algorithm, “which allows us to systematically go through and count those votes, and we can decide who the winner is.”

He added that algorithms come into play even with everyday activities such as tying shoes and baking.

Spicer opened his speech by referencing Donald Trump, saying that he would build a better raft and get the fish to pay for it. He continued by talking about language and how it “is a way of not being alone.” It allows other people to have an influence on us.

“You say stuff, and it flits across the room in little vibrations and crawls into other peoples’ heads through their ears… real ‘Wrath of Khan’ type stuff,” he stated.

The ideas that are placed into peoples’ heads because of this then force them to reevaluate their own perceptions, he added.

After the three teachers had spoken, Hosterman spoke in favor of leaving the raft and making them all sink or swim. He made his point by asking whether or not people would send back a computer science professor when he asked how many computer science people were in the audience, most of them raised their hands.

He said that all of the departments were equally important and that one “cannot separate one discipline from the raft.” He gave examples of each department’s gifts. The sciences, for example, tell us what to do “if we run into choppy waters, or how we survive if we run out of Chik-Fil-A and Charley’s crab dip.”

After Hosterman, the teachers issued rebuttals. Spicer said that language makes all the other disciplines possible, and everything comes from language. Dymacek said Hosterman is pessimistic, and Jones called Dymacek insane. Hosterman said that a new raft needs to be built for those who come next.

Dymacek, a first year teacher at Longwood, won the debate and said that he came up with his argument when he thought about what he would say when someone asked him why he was in computer science. While the debate is supposed to be comedic, this is how Dymacek feels about his career. Out of the other debaters, he found it hard to pick a favorite. The devil’s advocate, however, he found it to be a very fun ‘burn it all down’ performance. They are “all very interesting arguments” to Dymacek, however.

Walk N’ Roll

On Friday, April 8, Alpha Delta Pi partnered with the Office of Disability Resources to hold their fifth annual Walk N’ Roll in attempt to raise awareness for people with disabilities. Beginning at 4 p.m., the group began in front of the Student Union and walked past Chi Fountain, taking a scenic route around campus.

The Longwood sorority was the main participant in the walk, but the event attracted others from within the community as well.
Anderson .Paak is the next aftermath star

BY RICHIE KAMTCHOUM
A&E STAFF

Brandon Paak Anderson, aka Anderson .Paak, is an enigma of sorts. Although the soul singer/rapper is following a traditional path to stardom by being discovered by a music mogul that helped expose him to a mainstream audience, .Paak’s route has been more trying than others.

At 30 years old, he is relatively older than most new artists on the scene, and that much is evidenced in his music. He does not waste time getting his point across in his lyrics, and the production quality and strong structure are signs that he has been crafting his sound for a few years. He also did not blow up with one song like many other artists today (see Lil Boat), rather garnering a ton of features on the long awaited Dr. Dre album, “Compton.” His inclusion on the album came out of nowhere, as he was not signed to Dr. Dre yet, and his debut album “Venice” has yet to gain any mainstream attention. So when it was announced that he would be signing to Dr. Dre’s Aftermath Entertainment in February, it did not come as a surprise.

.Paak is destined to be a star after signing and working with Dr. Dre. Everything Dre touches turns to gold, literally. His track record is impeccable, and he has had the one of the biggest impacts on contemporary music. From N.W.A., to Snoop Dogg, to Eminem, to 50 Cent, the Game and most recently Kendrick Lamar, Dre has produced some of the biggest stars in music. .Paak should be no different, and as a seasoned independent artist, he is a bit more polished than the aforementioned artists at the time of their respective signings.

His hunger is shown in songs such as “The Season/Carry Me” saying, “And don’t forget that dot,”**** you paid for it/I spent years being called out my name living under my greatness/But what don’t kill me is motivation.” These lines include a reference to the period in front of .Paak; a detail he insists on having since he has been underrated for so long.

That motivation led to him crafting one of the best albums of the year thus far in “Malibu.” The album is soulful, light-hearted and emotional all at once. .Paak takes himself seriously, but is self-aware enough to poke fun at situations he encounters and hardships he has faced. The album plays like an old soul record, and .Paak has an old spirit, singing “I like Hennessy and record players/Teddy Pendergrass and Sammy Davis.” That soulfulness carries the album through a long track-list in which the album rarely reaches a lull.

As a rapper, .Paak is witty and effective, but his strengths lie in his song making ability and raspy voice that is packed with soul. In a sense, he is Kendrick Lamar meets Chance the Rapper and Leon Bridges. The production on “Malibu” uses live instrumentation with a combination of free jazz and funk, similar to Kendrick Lamar’s “To Pimp a Butterfly.”

Where .Paak differs from Lamar is his easy going approach to records, where the latter can sometimes sound preachy in his autobiographical music. .Paak sounds like that neighborhood friend with a good heart that occasionally straddles between right and wrong. The honesty in his content is devastating, as he mentions hardships such as both parents being jailed for seven years and a family history of addiction, but his soulful delivery eases the listener throughout “Malibu.”

There are few criticisms to make of .Paak, perhaps a little similar in his rapping to Lamar, and a singing voice that wanes every now and then, but no glaring holes. Now that .Paak is signed to Dr. Dre and has the proper support for his music, he can bet people won’t be underrating him much longer.

A musical for the non-musical

BY MIRIAM LOYA
ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

This upcoming weekend begins the final Longwood University theatrical production of the year: “The Musical of Musicals (the Musical!).” This relatively modern show is – you guessed it – a musical, which features music by Eric Rockwell and lyrics by Joanne Bogart.

The musical is being directed by Keri Wormald, an acting coach from Richmond, Virginia who was invited to guest direct here at Longwood for the first time. Wormald held auditions for the show in late January and posted the official cast list in mid-February.

Parts in the show consist of a small ensemble and the lead actors, all of which are theatre majors: sophomore Haley Mizelle playing the role of “June,” freshman Garrett Reese playing “Billy,” junior Gabby Klatt as “Abby” and Elton Bradley as “Jitter.”

“It is so nice to have someone outside of our department from the real world come in willing to give her techniques to us and trying to mold us into better actors” said Reese on working with Wormald, “… It’s an eye-opener. She’s not trying to sugarcoat anything or make us feel good.”

“The Musical of Musicals (the Musical!)” is divided into five acts, but don’t worry, this melodramatic parody promises to not drag on quite like its title does. Each act is satirically set in the style of many well-known musical theatre composers from Rodgers & Hammerstein, Stephen Sondheim and Andrew Lloyd Webber to Jerry Herman, John Kander and Fred Ebb.

With the four leads of the show, each character represents a certain archetype including the ingénue: “June,” the hero: “Billy,” the matron: “Abby” and of course, the villain: “Jitter.” Although the show is influenced by such large names in musical theatre, the plot is really quite simple: “I can’t pay my rent.”

However don’t feel as if these widely known shows should refrain you from attending the production because it is attended for all audiences. Despite the constant references to shows like “Sweeney Todd,” “Hello, Dolly!,” “Phantom of the Opera” and “Chicago,” the production captures both the theatrically inclined as well as non-theatre goers.

“If you like musical theatre, you’ll love it. If you don’t like musical theatre, you’ll still love it,” said Mizelle. “For the people who are not really into musical theatre, it’s kind of making fun of itself and musical theatre in general, so they’ll get a good laugh out of it.”

Longwood’s production of the musical has an overall goal of truly capturing the audience in the performance, as any other production would strive to. The difference is: they are taking it a step further by making it an immersive theatrical experience.

Bradley said, “This show relies on the audience. They’re basically the heartbeat behind it, and we are merely the limbs. This is musical theatre for the non-musical theatre person.”

The show opens this Thursday, April 14 at 7 p.m. in the mainstage theatre in CSTAC and runs throughout the weekend as well as next weekend.

For more information and ticket sales contact the Longwood University Box Office at 434-395-2474 or visit them online at http://www.longwood.edu/tag/18642.htm
"For me, public speaking has always been interesting. I have chronic anxiety, and it is something I like to be open about with people. Sometimes, I have no problem with public speaking, and other times it can be a challenge. So I've always thought, I don't know if I can do (stand-up comedy)," said Longwood University alumni Rebecca 'Becca' Lundberg.

In her day job, she is a full-time product coordinator at U. S. News and World Report, where she helps write content, enters data and works in public relations. But her “night job,” where she usually gets paid mostly in beer, consists of doing stand-up comedy.

She has always loved comedy. All throughout college, Lundberg watched stand-up comedy specials where comedians stand for an hour straight and tell jokes; she was intimidated. Because of her anxiety, Lundberg thought it was never something she could ever do, even though she has always thought of herself as a “pretty funny person.”

But, after going to her first open mic night in D. C. last spring to watch other comedians tell jokes, she realized that amateur stand-up comedy is a lot different from what people see on television. She also realized that stand-up comedians just starting out tend to do short, five minute sets and of course, she realized that she was a lot funnier than most stand-up comics in the D. C. area.

“I realized that it wasn’t that intimidating (and) I am funnier than most of these people. I said to myself that I can do it. I decided to go for it after I finished up school, and I love the energy and decided it was something I wanted to start doing,” she said.

Almost a month after watching her first stand-up show, she decided to reach out to comedians and bar owners in order to start performing herself. Lundberg sent email after email, made phone call after phone call and inally performed at her first comedy show in late July, where she found a man who helps new comedians find shows.

“The number one thing I make fun of is myself. I think it helps with my conidence a lot because I am able to look at my flaws and quirks and acknowledge them,” said Lundberg.

Lundberg said that she only occasionally sits down and writes her own jokes before performances, preferring to take her own life experiences and inspirations in the moment when she goes up on stage.

“I typically take my own experiences and exaggerate them. All my jokes are based on real life experiences, but I like to take it a step forward and be overboard about it. I like to start with the truth and just kind of, go from there,” she said.

For now, Lundberg has been doing gigs mainly in D. C. dive bars, as well as in Maryland and Virginia, depending on the show. Her biggest supporters are her roommates, family and college friends, who she says are usually “easy to drag along with her” to diferent shows.

Since she began nine months ago, Lundberg has been paid for her comedy sets only a few times, but isn’t concerned about the money. For now, she says, she just wants to have fun with it. She also says that after actively performing for a signiicant amount of time, getting calls to perform have become easier because she usually gets asked by her comedy friends to do local shows.

Her main comedic inspirations are Amy Schumer, John Mulaney and Rachel Feinstein because of their self-deprecating humor that encourages people to laugh at themselves.

She recently returned to Farmville to perform at the Fishin' Pig Funnies show and hopes to continue to do comedy to explore her creative side and simply just have some fun.

“When I started comedy, it was because I needed a creative outlet. I love my job, but I really wanted something a little more out of the box and creative,” said Lundberg.

As for making stand up a full-time career, Lundberg is putting that on the back burner for now, but not ruling it out completely.

She said, “I think for now it is something that I will continue to do a few times a week. For now, I am going to focus on my journalism career (in D. C.) and keep doing stand-up comedy and having fun. Right now, I am not sure if I want to make it a career because I think I might not enjoy it as much. I think if I overwork myself with it, it might seem more like work than fun.”
Spring Weekend

booths  lemonade
cookout  livemusic
events  oozball
families  organizations
friedfish  spring
friedoreos  sunglasses
games  sunny
jesusjamz  winefestival
koolaid
laughter

I HAVE NO FLOUR...

WHAT BAKER HAS NO FLOUR!

CALM DOWN

YOUR ALWAYS SO KNEADY!
Longwood Police: Friend or Foe?

BY JOHN FREDRIKSON
CONTRIBUTER

All Longwood students from New Lancer Days have been told that as long as you tell the truth, be respectful and are not a danger, the Longwood Police will do what they can to help. However at the same time, you also hear in the media about how bad the police are in America, especially when it comes to the traditionally negative stigma of university police.

People seem to not only go to college for learning but to also have a good time, which creates unique and often strained relationship between the students and the police who are supposed to protect them. There are many kids who feel more victimized than protected. Students are often kicked out of school for behavior that the majority of the students actually engage in, others simply do not get caught. So can Longwood students trust their police department?

When asked about the unlucky students, Chief Beach made it clear that part of his job is “holding people responsible for their own actions.” That is because he believes his force is a part of the education process, he helps teach students self-responsibility. He considers this one of the most important parts of his job, and he bases his approach to policing on it. This is why the Longwood University Police Department (LUPD) says if you tell the truth, be respectful, and are not a danger then you won’t have a problem, because you are showing respect and taking responsibility for your actions, whatever they may have been.

Chef Beach also said, “it becomes a quality of life issue.” He was not talking about the school but about the community. The LUPD is not just serving the university but the town of Farmville as well. There are many people who live in this community, and the Chief is one of them. It’s a small town that students could potentially make a lot of trouble in if left unchecked. There are times the town and college students should just stay separate the police help to accomplish this, for which both sides should be thankful.

The LUPD daily crime log as of March 27 has recorded 62 offenses since the start of 2016. 26 of those occurred in both on campus and off campus residential halls. The two most common of those were drunk in public (DIP) and second was possession of marijuana. The third and fourth most common offenses were larceny and assault, both of which are crimes against others, which needed protection from the LUPD seems obvious. However, the two most frequent charges of alcohol and marijuana are considered crimes against oneself. As most of these crimes occurred in residential halls, the students were safe in their room when the LUPD started to protect them.

I located two students both of whom had a run in with LUPD. Both were underage drinking and would like to remain nameless. Although in similar situations the two have different memories of the LUPD.

The first was a freshman walking home to Cox hall, drunk, when stopped by an LUPD officer. The officer asked where he was heading, which was not far from where they were. Next he asked the student if he had been drinking, which he replied with yes. He then took his name and asked if he could make it back safe. The cop walked the extra way to the door and watched the student go in safely. That was all that came of the situation, and the student has no hard feeling against cops now. He said, “I don’t know about all of the LUPD, but the one I ran into was helpful.”

The other student was left with a different impression of the LUPD. The student told the story of him and a few people drinking in a dorm when the LUPD Officer knocked on the door because the smoke alarm going off. Nobody was smoking anything, but one guy was using a vape. The Officer noticed the alcohol and from that point on it was over. He claims they never had a chance to be helpful and respectful to the police. “He got us from the moment he walked in, and he knew.” From that point on the Officer was not interested in a respectful conversation but, “was acting like he was on a power trip the whole time.” His lasting impression of the LUPD was not as positive.

An encounter with the LUPD does not have to be bad. If you are respectful, then the police can be a friend. Chief Beach is a great guy, and he, as well as the rest of the LUPD can be helpful to students. However, they are still police, which gives them a lot of power that can cause a student to be in real trouble if he acts poorly. In the end, as students your best option when dealing with the police is to act respectful and hope the police will as well.
The Rotunda Row

Whippersnappers or world changers?

Our generation is too whimsical

By Cassie Tagert

Copy Editor

If you type the word “millennial” into Google, you will likely pull up hundreds of articles written by older generations about why our generation is “ignorant,” whatever that means. Over the years, every generation slams on the generation that comes after it. It’s basically a tradition. I’m here to set the record straight. They’re right, but for the wrong reasons.

Lack of imagination is... cool? A lot of people use the word “basic” in a condescending way to describe people who all dress and act the same. Yet, people still do these things, and it’s cool to do it. I don’t know about you guys, but I love it when I walk in the room and I’m wearing the same outfit as literally everyone else, especially after I spend $130 for my boots. And carbs are gross. I hate it when my body uses them for energy to function properly. It’s so Ew.

In the past few years, it’s gotten increasingly more popular to be immersed in the world of technology in one’s free time rather than read a book or pick up a hobby. Guys, socializing is not a hobby. It’s just not. However, spending hours on end with your eyes glued to a screen while watching other people live fake lives is totally a hobby. I’m doing it right now. It’s great. Also, stamps are cool. I swear.

Did you know that ADHD affects millennials more than any other generation? It’s true. The internet says so. Pandas.

The biggest mystery with millennials is the strange disappearance of the phrase “bless you.” It’s not because we’re rude simpletons. It’s because we’re too distracted by our new-fangled Facebook-machines and the millions of thoughts swarming around in our heads to notice when someone violently ejects small drops of snot from their nose.

We’re the future, and the future is dark. It’s hard to go a day without reading about some human caused catastrophe happening in Belgiumpastan. But never fear! According to Forbes magazine, four in five millennials are optimistic for the future. So even if the world comes crashing around us, we’ll still have ramen and our parents’ couches to look forward to, and everything will be ok.

There’s no reason to worry. At the end of the day, the next generation will definitely be worse, and then we’ll look like the wiser elders, and everyone will forget about how much our generation bothered them. And even if they don’t, we can just post angsty tweets about it until the end of time.

We are not the problem

By Austin Berry

Layout Editor

People often complain about our generation, saying that we are too technology dependent, too uninvolved, you name it. They will often complain about the generation that follows them, perhaps because we, as humans, simply don’t like change.

What I would like to address is the critical idea that our generation is rude, disconnected, arrogant or whatever else we’ve been called. From my personal experience, this is simply not true. Not naming names, but I used to work at a popular fast food chain, (it rhymes with smick-smil-a), and I saw a lot of people on a daily basis. When there was a mix-up in the order or when food was taking a long time, it wasn’t the teenagers or the kids who got irritated and upset, it was the middle-aged soccer moms and grouchy old people who gave me grief.

Our generation also gets targeted about our dependence on technology, with people saying that we are constantly buried in our screens and not interacting in the real world. Let’s go ahead and throw that out the window now, every generation has done this, the technology just changes. We are distracted by iPhones and apps instead of 8-tracks and dial-up, but the premise is the same. Old people are just jealous that we can talk on the phone and use the internet at the same time. And let’s not forget that at one time, people considered the printing press a problem.

Some people will mistake our need for instant gratification and our use of technology as disinterest or lack of imagination. False! False, I say! If anything, we have more tools now to create and express ourselves than anyone ever has. And we need them, too, because our generation has to fix all the problems the previous ones have caused. The messed up economy, the conflicts in the Middle East, global warming and on and on.

We are the future, and the future is bright! Our generation will have to fix the problems of the one before us using all the tools at our disposal. One day, we will all be older and wiser and, no doubt, will be complaining about all of the new young whippersnappers and their fancy new gizmos and do-dads. Damn kids.
Lancers outclassed by No. 2 Auburn

Longwood suffers three-game sweep in Alabama

BY TRISTAN PENNA
SPORTS EDITOR
@COLOURLESSBEIGE

The Longwood softball team's hot streak came to an end as they were swept by No. 2 Auburn University in a three game road series. The Lancers came into the series having won seven of their previous eight games, but the trio of losses dropped the Lancers' record to 21-15 this season.

Auburn hosted a matchup between two of the top-25 pitching staffs in the NCAA. But the Tigers, ranked second in the nation, simply had too much talent for Longwood to overcome.

The skill of the two pitching staffs was on full display in the April 8 opener, as the Tigers edged out a 2-1 win. Both sides combined for just seven hits, but the decisive one came from Auburn's All-American third baseman Kasey Cooper, who hit a solo home run in the fifth inning.

Rachael Walters earned the win for the home side, giving up just one run on three hits, in five innings of work. Freshman Sydney Gay (9-5) suffered the loss, giving up just one run on Cooper's home run, over three innings. Gay came on in relief of junior Elizabeth McCarthy, who also gave up just one run in three innings.

Head coach Kathy Riley praised the performance of her two pitchers, despite the loss.

“We gave up three hits to one of the best offensive teams in the country,” Riley said on the official Longwood athletics website. “One of the things we did today was throw both a lefty and a righty. They threw different pitches because that’s a team that does a good job of making adjustments while the game is going on.”

Auburn struck quickly in the second game on April 9, racing out to an early lead with five runs across the first two innings. The fast start from the home side proved to be the difference, as the Tigers won 5-2.

McCarthy (11-8) took the loss, allowing five runs in just one-plus innings. Kaylee Carlson earned the win for the Tigers, tossing five innings, and giving up just one run on four hits.

In the series finale, the Lancers’ late comeback fell short, as the Tigers held on for a 6-5 win to complete the sweep.

Longwood trailed by three runs with just two innings remaining. But redshirt freshman third baseman Karleigh Donovan struck a solo home run in the sixth, before senior second baseman Carly Adams added one of her own in the final frame. However, the Lancers’ rally came up short, with the game-tying run stranded at second.

Lexie Davis earned the win for the Tigers, allowing two runs in 3.1 innings in relief, while Walters held on in the seventh inning for the save. Redshirt sophomore Sydney Mundell (0-1) suffered the loss, giving up three runs in 0.2 innings after coming on in relief of Gay.

Despite the sweep, Riley reflected on the positives of facing one of the best teams in the nation.

“Good competition breeds us getting better as a group,” said Riley on the official Longwood athletics website. “We didn't get a win and we wanted a win. I feel like we played consistent, quality softball all weekend. That consistency is what we want because good teams are able to consistently play well.”

The Lancers hope to return to winning ways as they host Virginia Tech on April 13.

Senior goes out on a high note

BY DERRICK BENNINGTON
SPORTS STAFF
@DERRICK_BENN

The Longwood men’s tennis team (7-14, 0-8) swept Norfolk State 4-0 to send lone senior Bharani Sankar out with a win at Lancer Courts.

Sankar tallied one of the two singles wins in his final home match, 6-2 and 6-3, to win back-to-back matches to close out the regular season, as well as three of the last five.

He has six single wins total on his senior season, and five doubles wins from the No. 3 spot, all paired with junior Rosen Ilchev.

Norfolk State brought a travel roster of five, forfeiting doubles play at Sankar’s usual position, automatically putting the team up by one in pursuit of the doubles point.

“It was a good win,” said Sankar on the Longwood athletics official site. “This program has meant a lot to me the last four years, so riding off into the sunset is a good way to end it.”

Sophomore Alfonso Castellano got the win for the Lancers at the No. 1 seed while junior Florian Uffer and sophomore Lachlan Manser finished off the sweep with a 6-2 win.

Longwood heads to Lynchburg, Va., as the No. 9 seed in the 2016 Big South Men’s Tennis Championships hosted by Liberty where they will face No. 8 Radford on Wednesday, April 13 at 1 p.m.

The Lancers lost to Radford less than two weeks ago in a close home match, ultimately falling 4-3 to the Highlanders.

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Weekly Round-up

Baseball
Away at High Point
April 8-10  4-3 W, 7-2 L, 2-1L

Softball
Away at Auburn
April 8-10  2-1 L, 5-2L, 6-5 L

Lacrosse
Away at Winthrop
April 9  10-8 L

Men’s Tennis
Home vs Norfolk State
April 11  4-0 W

Women’s Tennis
Home vs Hampton
April 12  Canceled
(inclement weather)

Men’s Golf
Away at Wofford Intercollegiate
April 11-12  ranked 15th

Women’s Golf
Away at Big South Tournament
April 11-13  ranked 8/9
(one round left)
Lancers unable to take series from top-seeded Panthers
High Point rallies to win final two games

BY DERRICK BENNINGTON
SPORTS STAFF
@DERRICK_BENN

The Lancers baseball team (19-14, 7-5) was able to pick up their seventh consecutive series-opening win but were unable to capture the series win at High Point (22-10, 7-2) over the weekend.

On Friday, April 8, the Lancers were able to rally after being no-hit through the first five innings to tie the game at 1-1 and knock out High Point’s starter, Scott Hoffman, due to a high pitch count.

After the Lancers got to the bullpen, they were able to get three runs off of reliever Tyler Britton who took the loss surrendering those three runs in three innings of work. Senior captain Travis Burnette picked up the win throwing 7.1 innings while surrendering three runs, two earned and striking out five to improve to 5-1 on the season.

“It was a great Friday night win with two front-line arms going toe-to-toe and was a great series-opening win for us,” Longwood head coach Ryan Mau said on the Longwood athletics official site. “(Burnette) is our workhorse, he’s our captain, and we feel really good when he’s out there pitching on Friday nights.”

The Lancers were led by their other senior captain C.J. Roth who ended the day 2-for-4 with two runs scored while junior designated hitter Alex Lewis added two RBIs to add on to his team-leading 31.

On Saturday, starter Andre Scrubb dominated the Lancer lineup striking out 11 over eight innings of work, allowing only two runs on three hits and surrendering three walks. Domonic Fazio set the pace for the Panthers offensively, driving in four runs in the 7-2 win. Fazio was 3-3 and had the go-ahead three-run double in the fifth inning.

“Scrubb had all three pitches working, and we just couldn’t figure him out,” said Mau. “They got the big hit tonight. (Fazio’s) double down the left field line was the difference.”

In the loss, junior outfielder Drew Kitson delivered the only two runs of the game on his two-run home run, his third of the season. Lewis was also able to reach base safely, which extended his team-high 15-game hitting streak.

On Sunday, Carson Jackson drove in the game-winning run to take the series from the Lancers in a 2-1 pitchers dual as Andrew Gottfried picked up the win allowing one run and five hits over seven innings.

Junior Cody Wager took the loss after allowing the go-ahead run over his two innings out of the bullpen.

Roth paced the Lancers throughout the weekend going 3-for-4 in the rubber match on Sunday and finished the weekend 5-for-12 with three runs scored.

The Lancers were able to use great defense throughout to stay in the game, including a diving catch by sophomore outfielder Hayes Nelson on the warning track that took away an extra base hit, but were unable to capitalize and scratch across any runs after the first inning.

“We missed an opportunity to tie it up late and couldn’t produce the big hit,” said Mau. “The bullpen did a good job of keeping us around.”

Longwood returns to action against the defending national champion Virginia Cavaliers on Wednesday, April 13 after it was pushed back from April 12 due to inclement weather.

The Lancers will be playing their tenth of 11 games against teams from the Commonwealth, and hold a 6-3 record so far against their in-state foes.

Women’s tennis ready for Big South Tournament

BY STEPHANIE ROBERTS
CONTRIBUTOR

The Longwood women’s tennis team wrapped up their regular season, after their final match against Hampton University was cancelled on Tuesday, April 12, due to weather conditions. The match will not be rescheduled due to there being so few days before both teams begin their conference tournaments. Longwood enters the Big South Tournament ranked as the No. 8 seed and will face No. 9 seed Radford University on April 15.

Longwood won their match this past Monday, April 11 against Chowan 5-4. This gave them their tenth win of the season, their highest total in nine years. That has given the Lancers a lot of motivation and built up their momentum heading into the tournament.

“Anytime that you can create an environment where you are winning and where you are playing really good tennis, I think it definitely helps that momentum moving forward,” said interim head coach Rich Stoneman. “Now it’s just kind of, can we build upon that momentum when playing Radford in the first round of the Big South tournament?”

Stoneman added that the team is going to continue with the same strategy that they have been following throughout the season. Stoneman also said the Lancers will continue to play hard and not take any team lightly, adding that there will be no lineup changes before the tournament.

Stoneman highlighted the leadership on the team as well.

“We’ve got great leadership, and I think that’s the success of any good team is to have good leadership,” said Stoneman. “Our captains Mason Thomas, Anna Pelak and Paloma Alatorre. They are great captains and good leaders, but we also have some young freshman that are very talented.”

The three captains each won their singles match against Chowan. Pelak and Thomas also paired up in doubles and defeated Chowan’s Cynthia Carrier and Angelique Gouin, 8-1. Alatorre paired up with freshman Tess Willis in doubles and took an 8-3 victory over Chowan’s Roxana Daneshjoo and Anna Makhneva.

Now the focus shifts to the tournament, where Longwood will face Radford, who they defeated 4-3 on Feb. 27. The winner will play No. 1 seed Liberty University the following day Saturday, April 16. According to Stoneman, it will be a battle between the two teams, but he has confidence in his team.

“We never take anyone lightly. It is Big South play. It’s number eight versus number nine. It could go either way; we want it to go our way. I think our girls, there is a better feel about who they are and the confidence they have and the confidence we have in them” said Stoneman.
Documenting a father’s faith

Gee family reflects ahead of upcoming film and book

Schizophrenia: A complex mental illness that creates a constant state of confusion for the person, characterized by delusions, hallucinations and strange behavior.

According to the World Health Organization, the incurable disorder causes complications in the minds of over 21 million people worldwide, and over 50 percent do not receive the appropriate care.

But it is treatable.

Twelve years ago, Longwood head men’s basketball coach Jayson Gee’s eldest son, Brandon Gee, was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia at 11 years old and spent three years in various medical facilities receiving treatment.

Over the three years, Brandon was nonresponsive as he was given a variety of medicines, each with different effects. Brandon said medical professionals considered him a vegetable during this period, aside from his volatile outbursts from time to time.

Simultaneously, Gee was beginning his budding coaching career in Division I men’s basketball as an associate head coach at St. Bonaventure and Cleveland State. Despite Brandon’s inability to communicate during this period, Gee balanced his coaching duties with traveling over an hour and half to and from Brandon’s facility for visits lasting ten minutes on a good day.

Doctors and close friends told Gee to let go of his son, considering him a lost cause to the incurable mental disorder. But Gee pushed through the fog of doubt surrounding the situation.

After three years, Brandon emerged from treatment as a functional 14-year-old, proving his father’s efforts worthwhile.

“He would just pray over me, tell me I would be healed, and then one day, I was,” said Brandon, looking at his father.

The idea of a film was planted in Jayson Gee’s mind about eight years ago. Outside of being an associate head coach at Cleveland State, he spoke to different teams at chapel services about his family’s journey on the side, delivering their message of perseverance, love and faith in the face of adversity.

“This story has been such an inspiration and this is before we even thought about it being a book or a movie or a documentary and so everyone we tell this story to is significantly inspired and so, to know that I’m a part of that is encouraging,” said Gee.

According to Gee, person after person would walk up after his visits and tell him the story needed to be on the big screen. One of the most important people to push for the rise of the Gee story was a friend and eventual executive producer, Joey Holland, the owner of several car dealerships in West Virginia.

“Joey Holland is the guy that has really underwritten all this and I would say he’s probably spent close to $100,000 by now, so his name’s worth mentioning,” said Gee with a laugh.

Holland’s willingness to fund the endeavor fueled even more life into the cause. The pair had a screen-worthy story and the money to create it, but lacked the writer to bring it all to life.

Then, last year, the final element found its way into the equation. After winning the John Lotz Barnabus coach of the year award from the Fellowship of Christian Athletes’ (FCA) last April, Gee was approached by a young writer with the perfect background in co-authoring books dealing with sports and religion.

After listening to Gee’s story, sports journalist Chad Bonham, recognizing the powerful message and miraculous plotline placed before him, didn’t hesitate.

“It really is on all levels a miraculous story that kind of unfolded with this family,” said Bonham. “I usually go looking for stories or go researching for stories, but when you get a phone call one day and someone says, ‘hey, here’s a story you need to hear about and here’s some people that want to make it happen. That doesn’t happen everyday and it’s just been a blessing to be a part of this.”

With Holland’s financing, Bonham began working to make the concept of a movie a reality using a documentary and book, targeting not only faith-based audiences, but a wider spectrum of viewers.

“This has a broader message in that this is what it looks like when a family doesn’t give up hope, this is what it looks like whenever a dad fights through the doubt and fear and the negative reports, this is what happens when love overcomes all of these impossible scenarios. And that’s a big message. That’s a big message that can appeal to anyone,” said Bonham, the director of the documentary and author of the novel, both titled, “The Battle for Brandon.”

For the past year, the team of Bonham and the White Wolf Creative production company headed by Paul Lawson, a friend of Bonham, collected interviews from a variety of perspectives including Brandon’s doctors, other basketball coaches, family friends and countless others.

While documentaries tend to move faster than feature films, Bonham explained hiccups can still occur and prolong the typical 12 -14 month development. “The Battle for Brandon” has yet to hit a snag.

“With this process, everyone was so interested in helping tell the story that we had virtually no problems getting people to come on board,” he said, aside from the family giving the different doctors’ permission to talk about Brandon’s condition during his three years in their care.

The core of the story remains within the dynamics of the Gee family, including his wife, Lynette Gee, youngest daughter, Briana, and his middle son, Bryan Gee, who also plays at Longwood under his father. Each played a different role during treatment and have seen their roles evolve in the time since as more stories, experiences and individual feelings have been expressed through the interviews.

Jayson Gee noted the willingness of his family to relive that time, considering how traumatic the period was for not only Brandon, but all of the Gee’s, demonstrated their progress in accepting those lost three years and the ongoing recovery since then.

—continued on therotundaonline.com