I believe I speak for all of Longwood’s returning student body when I say we are all excited for you to make your marks on campus and the community. There are so many opportunities up for the taking.

The Rotunda has a created a special edition of Longwood’s historic student newspaper specifically for you over the past few years, excited for your contributions. From perspective-broadening trips like studying abroad to socializing while watching a Division I sporting event to sparking a meaningful conversation in a class discussion, Longwood wants you to experience everything. Through your experiences, our Lancer family becomes stronger, and as you improve, we all strive to rise with you.

I wish you all luck with your endeavors in the first semester of freedom.

As you continue on your path, take these words by American poet and civil rights activist Maya Angelou: “Nothing will work unless you do.”

Wishing you all the luck I hope you won’t need,
Halle Parker
Editor-in-Chief
Fire forces 33 students’ relocation

Lightning, water damages Longwood Landings building

The Longwood Police Department responded to a fire on top of the northeast Longwood Landings building - a Longwood University-managed apartment complex - sparked by a lightning strike during an intense thunderstorm on Monday evening.

Thirty-three of the northeast building’s residents were relocated to Curry and Frazer Halls, on-campus dorms, according to Longwood Media Relations Director Matt McWilliams.

McWilliams said the Office of Residential and Commuter Life is working to find temporary housing for all 102 students displaced before the fall semester begins on Monday, Aug. 22 until the building is repaired.

McWilliams said the relocated students were escorted into the northeast building Tuesday to collect their belongings.

McWilliams said the fire stayed in the building’s attic, but damage from pumping water to extinguish the flames may have damaged the floors below, including the Longwood Barnes and Noble bookstore, located on the first floor of the building.

An estimated cost of damage and repair timeline is currently unknown.

No other students, outside of northeast Longwood Landings residents, should be affected by the fire, according to McWilliams.

Continue to follow The Rotunda as the story develops.
Update: Vice Presidential Debate

BY CHRISTINE RINDFLEISCH
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

With the vice presidential debate approaching in less than two months at Longwood University, many rumors have surfaced on campus as to how students and faculty will be affected.

Fitness Facility
Dr. Tim Pierson, Vice President of Student Affairs, sent out a mass email to the student body on May 23 revealing the new location of Midtown Landings. The new location will accommodate students and faculty in terms of the same machines as in the Health and Fitness Center but will not allow for group fitness classes as stated in the email. “...we will offer our usual full array of classes and fitness programs at various locations across campus throughout next fall,” Pierson stated via email.

While the debate is taking place on Oct. 4, the Health and Fitness Center will remain closed for the entirety of the fall semester to upgrade the fitness center floor that will take weeks to complete, according to the email.

Those employees who already work at the gym will also not lose any work hours due to this change. “We will not miss a beat on any day of having facilities open for every Fitness machine that we have over there,” said Pierson.

With Longwood having such a variety of club sports with 24 in total, “the majority of them will not be affected by the debate,” according to the debate website. As for volleyball and basketball, who primarily play in the Health and Fitness Center: “We are working on agreements with local partners to provide space for practice and matches. When those agreements are in place, we will let the affected teams know,” according to the debate website.

Residence Halls
No student will be forced or asked to move out of their residential rooms. The two new residential halls are starting to approach the finishing point in time for the debate. Pierson confirmed that one of the two buildings will host students in the fall, while one is set for debate-affiliated personnel. Pierson said the students that the residence occupied by the debate will be open to students to reside in for the spring semester.

According to the university’s debate website, Dorrill Dining Hall is still in question of whether or not it will remain open during the debate.

“The overall impact of this, we hope, will bring greater awareness of a political process for one and what it means to be citizen leaders that is embedded in our mission statement,” said Pierson.

The Cost
Longwood expects to spend a few million dollars in costs for hosting the debate. Expenditures will not come from student’s tuition but from cash reserve funds. Most of the cost for hosting the debate originates from upgrades to campus infrastructure that has already begun, according to the university’s debate website.

“We (Longwood) currently project spending roughly $5.7 million on operating expenses for the debate. These one-time expenditures include things like preparing the debate venue, public safety, hotel rooms, media outreach, signage, transportation, and academic and extra-curricular programming associated with the event (such as speakers), programming Longwood is conducting with local schools, as well as the fee paid to the Commission on Presidential Debates for TV production costs in anticipation of national viewership exceeding 50 million,” stated on the debate website.

Schools that have hosted the event in years past have reported that the economic impact has exceeded $10 million. In addition to the $10 million, the global publicity can be expected to hover around $50 million, according to the university’s debate website.

In 2012, there was reported to be 50 million people to have viewed the vice presidential debates, according to the university’s debate website.

This is the inside of the temporary fitness facility beneath the Longwood Landings.

The Petition
There are 145 current signatures on an online student-created petition titled “Petition: Longwood believes that its name recognition outweighs the health and personal concerns of its paying students. Help us let President Reveley (know) we are NOT okay with this” in the hopes of bringing their voices to light with the rumors surrounding the debate being hosted at Longwood.

The petition addresses the rumors of the deprived use of some of the facilities around campus during the time surrounding the debate, such as the Student Health & Wellness Center and Willett Hall. The petition also claims that students will not be able to live in the new residence halls currently under construction in front of Arc Hall in the fall of 2016 in order to instead accommodate for debate and media personnel.

The petition has decreased signatures by one, and the last signature was added three months ago.

“Hosting the vice presidential debate will have an impact on the campus. There isn’t any question about that,” said Pierson

To answer some of the rumors described in this petition as well as word of mouth around campus, Pierson sent out a mass email to all students providing clarification with a link to the university’s debate website connected to Longwood’s homepage.

Through the website, students are able to submit any questions they may have about how the debate will run and what will be affected.

“As more clarity unfolds in terms of the exact amount of disruption, there will be, I think, more people will get more comfortable with it,” added Pierson.

Previous Hosting Schools
Pierson added that Longwood staff has met with other institutions, which have hosted such events to discuss the planning, which goes into hosting a debate.

Longwood staff has spoken with Hofstra University in New York and Centre College in Kentucky about what to expect with this debate. According to Pierson, both academic institutions share the similarity of being smaller campuses.

The debate is set to take place in Willett Hall on Oct. 4, 2016. Any questions about the debate can be submitted through the Longwood debate website at debate.longwood.edu.
Don’t be bummed out by the construction

Taking a look at the positive outcomes of the construction throughout Longwood.

BY EMILY CARROLL
FEATURES STAFF

To all Lancers diving in their first year at Longwood University,

As all are aware, there are many signs of change throughout Longwood’s campus. With the jack hammering and listening to the engines running on the heavy machinery to the sounds of the workers communicating with one another, permanent changes on campus are in full swing.

However, many may feel that said construction is taking away from the beauty of Longwood’s campus. Although that may be the case when spotting the fencing that surrounds our campus or the construction that you may have spotted when you walked around on your tours or orientation, these changes are working towards making Longwood an even more special place to focus on our academia and building life-long friendships.

Some plans for the construction include some short-term projects as well as long-term projects in which most, if not all, of these projects can be seen in the master plan that Longwood has provided to the public.

Longwood is pursuing these projects throughout the campus to make it an even more inviting place to learn and grow. Some of these short-term projects include revamping the front entrance of Willet Hall as well as improving Willet Plaza, which includes improving the sidewalk from Willet to Main Street, all of which is predicted to be completed by August 2016.

Secondly, the gateway into High Street will be improved and is predicted to be completed shortly after students return to Longwood for the 2016-17 school year.

All of these improvements on campus are adding to the upbeat activity that students at Longwood see throughout their college career. Dr. Tim Pierson, Vice President of Student Affairs, described the added action throughout campus. “What makes Longwood so special is the vibrant activity,” he said.

The new residence hall Register opened in early August and began housing students this fall semester. Meanwhile, Sharp, the second new residence hall, will be able to house students halfway through the fall semester.

While two tremendous projects are finished, there are multiple other long-term projects in the master plan; the steps that make these projects come to life can be seen on campus today.

One project in particular is the Student Success building, which will be located between Lankford Student Union and Greenwood Library. The Student Success Building will be a fantastic resource for the Writing Center and will provide more resources for students to achieve their academic success.

Pierson stated, “The progress of this building is rapid and is predicted to be up and running on schedule.”

Another building that broke ground in July is the University Center. This building will be the new home to the Lancer Café, it will provide spaces for student run organizations to meet and will provide more space for offices for the student run organizations. The University Center is presumed to be twice the size of the Lankford Student Union and is one very exciting change coming to Longwood.

Freshman Tanya Velasquez stated, “I’m more than excited about the new plans. Though it is a little disappointing that they won’t be finished until my senior year.”

Throughout the master plan blueprints, Longwood has put what would most benefit the students first, especially with these new buildings, and to top it off, it is predicted that a new admissions building and academic building will be included on the campus as well.

Pierson described these new buildings as, “very convenient and accessible to students.”

All of these changes, whether they be short or long-term projects, are very exciting for students coming to Longwood for their first year of college as well as those who will be walking across the stage this year to become a Longwood Alumni.

Pierson described, “These are signs of growth and Longwood is a place that is just becoming.”

Big adventures in small town Farmville

BY MEGHAN WEST
BUSINESS MANAGER

You may be asking yourself, “What is there to do in a small town like Farmville?” Rather you should be asking yourself, what is there not to do in Farmville? Believe it or not, Farmville provides many opportunities for adventure, hangout spots and hobbies. You will never find yourself feeling bored.

If you like the outdoors then you are in luck with High Bridge Trail, Twin Lakes State Park, Briery Creek, Wilks Lake and the Sandy River Adventure Park. All of these locations are within twenty minutes of town and are easily accessible. They also allow you to experience nature while taking a break from studying for that big exam or writing a paper for midterms.

If the outdoors is not for you, then don’t fret. There are still plenty of options for you to take advantage of. On Tuesday nights, Main Street Lanes hosts College Night, and students can pay five dollars for All You Can Bowl from 9 p.m. through 12 a.m. This is a small price to pay for lots of fun and bonding time with your friends.

Another option is the Longwood Center for the Visual Arts (LCVA) that features different exhibits throughout the year. Located on the corner of Main St. and Griffin Blvd. The museum tells the history of how the Civil Rights Movement affected the Town of Farmville and Prince Edward County as a whole. If you love history then this is the place to visit. It is a great way to learn some of the history of the town, and most likely at some point during your college career, you will visit the museum for a class or extra credit assignment.

Farmville also has a movie theater called Sunchase Cinema located off campus near the Hampton Inn and Sunchase Apartment Complex. With lower prices than the brand name theaters, Sunchase still shows new releases and midnight showings. This is a great option for a rainy day or for that movie you have been dying to go see. If you don’t have a car, don’t worry because the Farmville Area Bus (FAB) drops off near the complex every thirty minutes.

Lastly, if none of the above strikes your interest or you just love shopping, then you should take a walk down Main St. to do some window shopping or drop in for that last minute gift for your friend or family. The Sleeping Bee, Penelope’s, Pairets and Greenfront are a few places students to tend to shop at, and these stores often have discounts for college students who bring their I.D. Another option that many students utilize for their clothing needs is Belk, which is not on Main St. It may not be a brand name store like American Eagle or Hollister, but it is another option worth trying. Many students go here to purchase clothing for their internships, jobs or class presentations.

Whether it is hiking on High Bridge or spending a rainy day inside at the movies, Farmville has many options for students to take advantage of. All you have to do is grab some friends and make a plan. Do not worry if you cannot decide which option to do because you will have plenty of time for each option during your time here at Longwood. So, what is your next adventure going to be?
Humans of Longwood: Who’s who at Longwood University

One of the best parts of writing the Humans of Longwood column is being able to introduce the community to the unique characters that make the school what it is. Here are the people you need to remember that will keep you in the know for your freshman year.

Dr. Tim Pierson: Vice President, Office of Student Affairs. Dr. Pierson, lovingly recognized as “Timmy P,” is most notable for informing the students of what is happening around campus, whether it be tips for staying healthy in the winter season (always remember to wash your hands), information about Lancer Cards or how to navigate through the construction. He’s one of the most friendly people on campus and always has a smile on his face, so never be afraid to say hello.

President W. Taylor Reveley IV: President. President Reveley has been at Longwood for three years. A former attorney, Reveley now focuses his attention on incorporating technology into education and producing citizen leaders. You will most definitely hear about the upcoming Vice Presidential Debate from him and take the Honor Code pledge with him during New Lancer Days.

Dr. James Jordan: Board of Visitors Distinguished Professor of Anthropology. Dr. Jordan is a legend at Longwood University. He is currently the professor with the longest tenure, a hefty 38 years. You’ll see him a lot within your next four years; he tells ghost stories for Oktoberfest, leads the procession at convocation as the Chief Faculty Marshal and teaches the ever popular Anthropology 101, along with other higher level classes within the department.

Steve “Lancer Pants” Robertson: Assistant Director of Marketing. Lancer Pants is known for emceeing basketball games, wearing unique navy blue and grey plaid pants and rocking Heelys, which you probably have not seen since 2008. Lancer Pants has an infectious attitude, and his ability to pump up a crowd is unparalleled. When not at the basketball games, Robertson oversees many promotional programs for the athletics department.

Don’t be afraid to get involved

During the summer, I work as a barista at Starbucks while I’m at home, and in my time at Starbucks I have learned that there are three types of people in the world – the people who order the same thing every day, the people who will mix up their order just to make sure I’m paying attention to what they want and the people who never know what they want even though they come every single day. My favorite customers are the ones who change it up – who, no matter what, look at every day as a new adventure and are constantly exploring not only new drinks but new avenues in life.

I think that’s how every freshman should approach involvement in college, with an open and excited mind about what lies ahead of them.

Coming into college and going to a club meeting all by yourself can be intimidating, especially when everyone seems to know each other, but it can also be so exciting. As the year begins, you’ll see clubs start to have meetings and inviting freshman to get to know what they are all about. I would suggest grabbing a friend and going to as many as you can. Doing this, you’ll get to know more people just by attending the meeting! See? You’re already making so many new friends!

Also, don’t worry at all; no one will get offended if you don’t stay with the club. They will still say “Hi” to you on Brock Commons and just be happy you tried something new.

More importantly, do not, I repeat, do not close yourself off to something. You will never know what you’re missing if you do! When I first came to college, I was completely shut off to Greek life. I never thought it was for me. Then, I went through my first semester trying out belly dance meetings, yoga classes, ambassador meetings, looking at honors fraternities and even running for class council. Doing all of these things helped me find my passion for student government and rediscover my love of writing.

I know that the first semester in college is completely overwhelming for everyone (some people are just better at hiding it). But if there is one thing I can promise you, it is that with an open mind about involvement, you will get to know so many wonderful people and be able to find your passion here on Longwood’s campus.
Men’s Soccer

Monday, Aug. 22 - 6 p.m.
   Exhibition vs. Lynchburg College

Saturday, Sept. 10 - 6 p.m.
   vs. Newberry College

Saturday, Sept. 17 - 6 p.m.
   vs. Appalachian State

Tuesday, Sept. 20 - 6 p.m.
   vs. George Washington

Monday, Sept. 26 - 6 p.m.
   vs. Pittsburgh

Saturday, Oct. 1 - 6 p.m.
   vs. Campbell

Saturday, Oct. 8 - 6 p.m.
   vs. Gardner-Webb

Wednesday, Oct. 26 - 6 p.m.
   vs. Radford

Wednesday, Nov. 2 - 6 p.m.
   vs. Liberty

Women’s Soccer

Friday, Aug. 19 - 7 p.m.
   vs. Richmond

Friday, Aug. 26 - 7 p.m.
   vs. Marshall

Sunday, Sept. 11 - 3 p.m.
   vs. UMBC

Sunday, Sept. 18 - 2 p.m.
   vs. Saint Francis

Saturday, Sept. 24 - 2 p.m.
   vs. Gardner-Webb

Saturday, Oct. 1 - 2 p.m.
   vs. Winthrop

Saturday, Oct. 8 - 2 p.m.
   vs. Presbyterian

Saturday, Oct. 15 - 2 p.m.
   vs. UNC Asheville

Saturday, Oct. 22 - 2 p.m.
   vs. Charleston Southern

Field Hockey

Friday, Aug. 26 - 3 p.m.
   vs. Towson

Sunday, Aug. 28 - 11 a.m.
   vs. St. Louis

Sunday, Sept. 11 - 12 p.m.
   vs. Davidson

Sunday, Sept. 25 - 12 p.m.
   vs. Kent State

Wednesday, Oct. 12 - 6 p.m.
   vs. VCU

Sunday, Oct. 16 - 12 p.m.
   vs. Ohio

Saturday, Oct. 29 - 3 p.m.
   vs. Missouri State

*Conference game
2016-17 Theater Show Schedule

Fall:

“Antigone”  
Written by Jean Anouilh  
Sept. 21-25  
Directed by Bruce Speas

“The Cover of Life”  
Written by R. T. Robinson  
Nov. 9-13  
Directed by Lacy Klinger

Spring:

“You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown”  
Music and Lyrics by Clark Gesner  
Feb. 22-26  
Directed by Ronda Scarrow

“Table Manners”  
Written by Alan Ayckbourn  
April 12-16  
Directed by Bruce Speas

Ticket Prices

$6 Longwood students  
$8 Faculty/staff, non-LU students and senior citizens  
$10 General Admission

For tickets, contact the Box Office at (434) 395-2474 or Order Online at http://longwoodtickets.universitytickets.com/user_pages/event_listings.asp  
For audition information, technical involvement and more, visit http://www.longwood.edu/tag/theatre.htm
You’re here, now how do you meet people?

BY DAVID PETTYJOHN
A&E STAFF
@PETTYJOHNDAVID

To some, leaving the comfort of high school and coming to a university can be daunting. You have left everyone behind to come to Longwood and have to make entirely new friends. It is a process I had to go through myself twice. After leaving my close-knit high school theatre troupe, I went to community college for one year before transferring here. At community college, I, of course, had new friends that I had to leave when I transferred. So, I know what it’s like to have to leave your new friends often and make new ones. With that in mind, here are some tips for meeting new people all over again, such as getting involved in student organizations and a few you might not have thought of.

When you ask someone about the fastest ways to make new friends in college, the common response is to involve yourself in lots of activities. Longwood offers 174 different student organizations, so there is something for everyone. As for myself, I obviously write for the student newspaper. I can also be found with organizations like the Politics Club and sometimes the Gaming Club. The Politics Club recently held a debate between the College Democrats (which I am a part of) and the College Republicans. I was one of the moderators for the event. The Longwood Gaming Club is an organization that I occasionally tag along with, especially for Extra Life, a charity event they do each year.

Another way to meet people is to go to Dorrill Dining Hall and speak to new people each time you go there. This is what I did for a good while after I got here during my first semester, and I met a lot of new people. It is best to try several different places in the dining hall in order to meet a wider variety of people. A similar idea is to go to the café (also known as "the Stu") under the Student Union and the Java City coffee shop next to the library. Both of these are places where you are sure to find new people to hang with. The Stu also has a game room lounge area with several smaller rooms, such as a meeting area.

Many of the residential departments also have planned activities, which are good ways to meet people on your floor that you may not have met before as well as the other people from dorm or residential area. These are often activities like the Dorm Olympics for the dorms and Trivia Night, which is hosted by the Longwood Village each Tuesday.

This is just a small list of the multitude of ways that you can meet people at Longwood University. Making new friends in a new place can be a difficult task for people at any age, even college students. The point is to make sure that you get yourself out there and meet people who have similar interests to you, and you can have a much better time at Longwood.

Diversity inclusion advice for freshmen

BY RITCHIE KAMTCHOU
A&E STAFF

Making the transition to college can be overwhelming, and immersing oneself in a new environment can be particularly challenging. With a new environment comes new faces and being taken out of a comfort zone can lead to angst and awkwardness. However, that should not detract from trying to have the best college experience possible. Understand that feeling uncomfortable, shy and overwhelmed are all natural progressions during this transition and should be used as a stepping stone to breaking out of a shell. Even if the transition is fairly easy, be prepared to grow exponentially and try to break out of the box.

Adjusting to those new faces may not just include being comfortable with those around, it can also be genuinely taking the time to interact with those folks. Seeing new faces in a college setting, such as Longwood, speaks to seeing young people from all walks of life, races and cultural backgrounds that converge in one location. A large amount of people may have never stepped outside of their comfort zone before high school.

Diversity inclusion means stepping outside of that comfort zone or “box” and interacting with a diverse collection of individuals to have an enriched experience; black, white, Latino, heterosexual, homosexual, “jocks,” “nerds,” etc. The reality is, the real world will likely include a mix of all types of people and having a secluded mindset does no one any favors. You may as well start as early as possible and learn a few things about different people.

One of the first ways to practice inclusion in a diverse setting is by speaking to someone that does not look similar to yourself. A simple conversation can go a long way and interacting with people from all backgrounds is the first step in acclimating into a diverse setting. It does not have to be anything too deep or personal, but making an effort to converse can help people that may feel invisible on campus feel visible. Do not necessarily see this as an obligation, but perhaps take it as a step further than conversation and try to immerse in the environment of others.

If it is hard to individually step out of that comfort zone, perhaps gather a few more individuals and attend events that Longwood’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion puts on, such as the hunger banquet, the Martin Luther King service day challenge and the MLK bus trip to Washington, D.C. Diversity and Inclusion frames its events to encourage growth in these areas on campus and attending one can provide the framework for diversity inclusion growth for college and beyond. Another point, feeling out of place should not lead to isolation.

Do not fall into the trap of seclusion, rather jumpstart inclusion. Force the awkward feeling of feeling alone by embracing the environment and including oneself in it. Chances are, there are people in similar predicaments and are looking for people to meet such as them. There is no way to find out these things without talking to people, attending events and having an open mind to college while encouraging peers to do the same. Having an open mind can lead to new friendships, new experiences, more knowledge and a fulfilling enrichment.
What to look forward to in college

I suppose there is no better way to start than by saying hello and welcome to Longwood University. These past few days have no doubt been stressful as you say your goodbyes, get moved into your new digs and try to figure how to shape up your life on this crazy planet called college. Lucky for you, I, your intrepid and sarcastic weekly columnist, am here to roll out the welcome mat to you new class of Lancers, or at least the five who actually read this.

As I’m sure many people have told you over and over again in the past few days, there is a lot to look forward to in college, and I am going to give you a sneak peek of what you can happily anticipate during your daily life in College Land.

One of the best bits of college life, in my excellent, indisputable and completely humble (more humble than you understand) opinion, is that you are in almost total control of your schedule. Hate mornings? Then sign up for classes later in the day! Want Fridays off? Many classes offer times with no Friday sessions. You are no longer stuck to the drudgery of a seven-hour marathon school day. When you get a plan that works for you, you can have so much time to do every college student's favorite activity: sleep!

Having extra time for naps is seriously one of the best parts of college, and don’t let anyone tell you differently. It may sound like a small thing, but don’t you dare underestimate how much college kids love sleep. Believe it or not, this whole learning-to-adult thing can be really tiring, and when you’re faced with all these bills to avoid paying and papers to avoid writing, nothing is better than curling up into a big, warm burrito of not giving a shit and going to sleep.

This leads me perfectly into my next point, you will spend most of your time burrito-ing (Verb: to be a burrito in a metaphorical sense; to nap aggressively) in your dorm room. Now, dorm-ing can be at once really exciting and stressful. But allow me to quell any of your anxieties about it with three words: kitchen by bed. That’s right! In what may be the single best feature of dorm life, you have your full food supply, fridge and microwave, right next to your bed. Game changer! No matter what happens, food will always be there for you.

Should you be interested in more edible indulgences (because who isn’t, amiright?), there are options for that also. Some of the favorites are the shops by the Landings, where you can dine on Chick-Fil-A, Moe's, Subway or Sweet Frog. Don’t feel bad about overeating orSweet Frog. Don’t feel bad about overeating as I’m told that the hilly walk to the landings is a good thigh-burner. However, should you feel you need more exercise, you can spend some time at the gym or at the pool that I’m told the hilly walk to the landings is a good thigh-burner. However, should you feel you need more exercise, you can spend some time at the gym or at the pool that I’m told.

However you might choose to spend your time, there is a lot to look forward to in the years ahead. It’s a clean slate, and you can be whoever you want. It’s kind of like the witness protection program except you still get to call your mom. There are tons of new and interesting people to meet (some in a good way, some not), friends to make and you have the opportunity to really find your niche in life and to explore your passions. But if you don’t, that’s ok too. Your college experience can be whatever you make of it, and remember that it’s ok to not have everything figured out right now because the rest of us sure as hell don’t.

Welcome to Longwood. Happy napping!

Things not to do your freshman year

It’s your freshman year of college. You’re finally out of your parents’ house and are about to enjoy all the awesome parts of being an adult while ignoring the suckfest that is bills, insurance, spending your whole paycheck on groceries and bills, retirement funds and bills. The last thing you need is some glorified grammar-police telling you what you shouldn’t be doing right now. Because you want to be doing it all, right? Wrong.

Step one: the art of saving money. Once we’ve accepted the death of our childhood dreams of becoming of bus driver (because didn’t we all aspire to be a professional taxi service to small children at one point?) and decided to pick a “more lucrative career that will actually go somewhere” (thanks, Mom), we decided to spend money we didn’t have on something we wouldn’t get for four years. So, that automatically means that there’s really no way we can avoid spending less on college than we have to right? Wrong. Textbooks are so expensive. Take it from me; I’m an English major. Don’t just get all 21 books you need from the bookstore just because it’s convenient. Shop around and find the lowest price. Just make sure if you buy your textbooks online, the site you’re using is legit and not a scam.

Step two: don’t accidentally kill yourself. For a lot of people, going to college is the first time they get to experiment with drinking and meeting a lot of different people. Everyone’s going to hear the phrase “knowing their limits” at one time or another. To be clear, “knowing your limits” does not mean drink until you almost die and then the next day decide to never do that again and then doing it again the next weekend. It may sound fun to be so drunk that you urinate in a fountain on campus in the middle of the night and wake up in a strange place the next day, but the Instagram pictures of you streaking in front of an old folks’ home will not be as fun. Take it slow to find your limits and remember to drink water.

Step three: to go Greek or not to go Greek? Greek life is a huge part of college that is amaze-balls to some people and so lame to others. It sounds silly to walk around wearing letters that don’t spell anything and being involved in a lifestyle that actually has nothing to do with Greek yogurt just to hang out with the same people for the next four years, right? Wrong, again. Don’t be afraid to put yourself out there and try it, but don’t just do it because everyone else is either.

Whatever you do your freshman year, make sure you have fun, get good grades and viva la vida.
College is a whole new experience, and you may not know where to begin. The clubs, organization and sports you were involved in during high school have finished, and now you find yourself wondering what is next and what organizations college has to offer. With over 200 organizations and clubs, there is always something for everyone at Longwood, and if you do not find the right fit, you can always make your own.

The key to getting involved is to not jump in too quickly as soon as you get to campus. Taking your first semester off from being involved is understandable and is not often frowned upon. By doing so, you allow yourself to get accustomed to being on your own, class schedules and are able to devote time to your studies. If you find that you must get involved, I recommend starting with one organization to get your feet wet before diving head first into a full schedule of activities.

The first way to discover organizations is to talk to upperclassmen peers in your classes, in your major and even your professors. They have experience and can recommend an honor society or club that you spend the rest of your Longwood career in. All you have to do is ask, and they will most likely invite you along so that you do not have to go alone. If you are uncomfortable asking someone or if their suggestion does not work out, do not give up! This is not the only way to get involved.

The second way is to attend the Involvement Fair that will be held Sept. 6 on Brock Commons. Most organizations will have a table there with information as well as students to answer questions or sign-up sheets where you can write your contact information. You will leave this fair with pamphlets of information that you can refer to during your time at Longwood if you have further questions.

If you still are unable to discover an organization, look for ones that spark your interest or have to do with a hobby that you have fell out of touch with. College is about finding yourself and doing what you love, so why not get involved in organizations that will help further your career, develop new skills and help you make friends that you will stay in contact with for the rest of your life.

Whether it is an honor society, fraternity, club sport or student government, there are many organizations you can get involved in and make new friends. So, don’t just stand there reading this article, get out there and start looking!
For new students, coming out and cheering on your fellow Lancers is a great event and a chance to meet other spirited sports fans on campus. The G.A.M.E. (Greatest Athletics March Ever), as part of New Lancer Days, allows incoming students to get a feel for Lancer athletics and school pride. But for those who want a little more information on the upcoming fall sports, here is a primer on this fall’s sports in Farmville.

The men’s soccer team, led by head coach Jon Atkinson, is coming off a 9-9-1 record and fifth place finish in the Big South last year. The team’s high-flying offense, which was third-best in the Big South last season, will make them exciting to watch. Redshirt sophomore forward Willy Miezan finished second in the conference in goals (13) and amongst the top 10 nationally, he’s expected to spearhead the attack, while junior midfielder Dan Campos pulls the strings from midfield.

“Every season brings an air of optimism, and this year will be no exception. We have an exceptionally strong returning core and excellent additions that will rise to what is a challenging schedule,” said Atkinson on the official Longwood athletics website.

Their non-conference season begins on the road against VMI on Aug. 28, before the home opener on Sept. 10 versus Newberry College at the Longwood Athletics Complex.

While attack makes the headlines for the men, defense makes up the foundation of the women’s soccer team. Their nine shutouts helped head coach Todd Dyer’s team earn a 9-8-2 record and fifth place conference finish last year. Junior goalkeeper Maria Kirby will hope to top her impressive sophomore campaign, where she collected seven clean sheets in 16 games.

Women’s soccer graduated nine seniors last season, the one of the largest classes in the program's history, and returns seven starters, including Big South All-Freshman team pick Sydney Wallace. Wallace will enter her second year anchoring the Lancers’ backbone.

The ladies open their season at home, where they will host Richmond on Aug. 19 before facing Marshall on Aug. 26.

Sharing the Athletics Complex with the soccer teams is the field hockey team, who placed fourth in the Mid-American Conference last season, their second year in the conference, as the Big South does not sponsor field hockey. Head coach Iain Byers’ squad finished with a 7-10 record as junior forward Edel Nyland was named first team All-MAC, and will lead the attack this fall.

Field hockey will open their season against with a pair of home games starting with Towson on Aug. 26, closely followed by a match against St. Louis on Aug. 26.

Along with the men’s and women’s cross country teams, who open with the Hokie Invitational in on Sept. 2, things are shaping up for an exciting fall season in Farmville.

While Longwood’s official Division I sports provides a great chance for students to show their spirit and support their school, it is not the same for those who would rather be playing the sport themselves. However, club sports deliver the opportunity for athletes to continue playing the sports they love.

With over 20 club sports teams on campus, there are a wide selection of options to choose, ranging from baseball, to men’s and women’s rugby, to ultimate frisbee. Incoming freshmen looking to get involved on campus should consider joining a club sports team, according to Sport Club Executive Council Treasurer Blake Cole.

“For anyone who wants to have some fun and meet new people at campus, I would definitely recommend it,” said Cole, who was formerly the president of club tennis. “People who have played a lot, or even (those who) don’t have a ton of experience, can come out.”

The level of play on the club teams still holds its own, however. Longwood’s club baseball team had an impressive season last year, going 9-3 and winning their division, qualifying for their regional tournament.

“The guys had a really nice season last year,” said Longwood alumni Derrick Bennington, who spent three years with the club baseball team. “It just shows that even if you’re not a scholarship, Division I athlete, it doesn’t mean you can’t be on a team that does great things.”

A full list of the club sports available and the representatives to contact can be found on the club sports contact page on the Longwood website.
What are some tips on packing enough but not too much?

“The key is thinking that less is more. When you are heading to Longwood think of the things that are essential for you to live away from home and bring those first. I promise you won’t regret it. When you are moving in, you will find that there is less space than you expected and bringing less will help your move in problems. As you move throughout the year, you can then bring anything you missed on your first move in as your parents visit or you go home for the holidays. Please, save yourself the trouble and do not pack a U-Haul full of stuff and bring it with you to your one-sided bedroom.”

-Adam Fletcher, Class of 2016, Peer Mentors, Longwood Ambassadors

What do I do if I get sick at college?

“For minor colds and illnesses, the Stu (Student Union) sells some over-the-counter medicines that you can buy that can do the trick. For more serious matters the Student Health & Wellness Center, which is located above the gym, has doctors that can prescribe medications; all you have to do is make an appointment during their hours Monday through Friday. In the case of an emergency, the (Centra Southside Community) Hospital is located very close to campus. Additionally, do your roommates a favor and try to stay away to prevent the spread of germs, but ultimately it’s bound to happen in such close corners.”

-Logan Potts, Class of 2019, Cormier Honors College

What is your advice for getting along with your roommate/s?

“I’d say agree to a set of rules or conditions you can both accept and stick to them. Learn to compromise, but if something makes you uncomfortable don’t suffer in silence; talk it out. Almost all problems can be solved just by communicating with your roommate. Never let a situation get so out of hand that you feel you need to act out aggressively toward them; it won’t benefit either of you. And one last thing, sharing is caring; things that can be shared like fridges, coffee makers, microwaves and even clothes and shoes can be shared. Since the dorm rooms tend to be a bit cramped anyways, it’s nice to know that you can both occupy the same space and use some of the same things without creating conflict.”

-Nikki Copenhaver, Class of 2019, Longwood Equestrian Team

What is it like going to college in another state?

“It’s really exciting going to college in a different state because you’re far away from home and experiencing another culture.”

-Anna Knapp, Class of 2019, Cormier Honors College

What’s the most cost effective way to acquire textbooks and other supplies for classes?

Textbooks: “The key is comparison. You have to do research on what is going to be cheaper for you. My advice is to head to Amazon for most books and buy or rent from them. Amazon also offers a discount on its two-day shipping known as Prime for Students, which will allow you to get books quickly. But don’t shy away from the bookstore because once in a blue moon their prices may be lower.”

Other school supplies: “All that you should need are a few spiral notebooks and some pencils and pens for classes, so head out for some back-to-school shopping before moving in.”

-Adam Fletcher, Class of 2016, Peer Mentor, Longwood Ambassadors

What would you tell your freshman self?

“If I could tell my freshman year self anything, it would be to focus more on studies and less on socialization. Your friends don’t get you passing grades, you do. Have fun, but remember why you’re at Longwood.”

-Rachel Gates, Class of 2018, Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority