9-5-2016

Rotunda - Vol 95, no. 3 - Sep. 05, 2016

Longwood University

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.longwood.edu/rotunda

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.longwood.edu/rotunda/2166

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Library, Special Collections, and Archives at Digital Commons @ Longwood University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Rotunda by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Longwood University. For more information, please contact hinemtm@longwood.edu.
Longwood purchases bottom floor of Longwood Landings for $7,750,000

As of May 2016, Longwood University is the owner of the bottom floor of Longwood Landings. Prior to the large purchase made in May, a private owner had owned the ground floor while Longwood owned the floors above, hosting student apartments since being complete in 2006. The negotiation was made with the previous owner of the complex directly. Louise Waller, Executive director of campus planning and construction, further explains that the purchase came at a time that no other potential buyers were a factor.

Waller disclosed that the ground floor of the Longwood Landings was purchased for $7,750,000. The purchase included a new temporary space for the Health and Fitness Center, in addition to being the owners of the other already occupied spaces that made up the complex. Longwood had been looking for a temporary gym facility since the original space is being used as a media center for the upcoming Vice Presidential Debate on Oct. 4.

“We acquired the property at a reasonable rate that was approximately the appraised value,” said Waller.

There was a mass email sent out to students on May 23, 2016 disclosing to students where the temporary location of the fitness facility was at Midtown Landings.

—CONTINUED ON PAGE 4
Survey: What students view to be the most important part of Longwood and why they love it

by Jesse Plichta-Kellar
Contributor
@longwoodrotunda

A survey was recently conducted using an online form to find out more about student preferences and priorities at Longwood. This survey was conducted through an online poll that was answered primarily by students. The survey inquired what the students considered most important and what they liked the best. For both questions, five options were offered: academics, friends, clubs, sports and parties.

When asked what the most important part of life at Longwood is, the vast majority of students were academically-inclined with over 70 percent responding that academics were the most important aspect in college life. There weren’t any responses that stated that parties or sports were the top priority. A little over 23 percent of the responses reported that friends are the most significant aspect of college life. The remaining 5.9 percent indicated that clubs are the most vital part of being a student at Longwood.

“Having all my friends at school,” said Wright in regard to what she considered to be what she loved most about life at Longwood.

“Traditions. From Chi to Oktoberfest to Oozeball and everything in between,” said David Gills, an undeclared sophomore, regarding what he loved most about Longwood life.

Overall, students considered academics the most important aspect of Longwood, in addition to friends taking the top spot in what students view to be their favorite part of life at Longwood.

What is the most important part of life at Longwood?

- Academics: 23.5%
- Friends: 70.6%
- Clubs: 11.8%
- Parties: 17.8%

What do you love most about life at Longwood?

- Academics: 58.8%
- Sports: 11.8%
- Clubs: 17.8%
- Parties: 11.8%
- Friends: 23.5%
Following an atypical admissions cycle, Longwood University’s freshmen enrollment declined by 153 students after boasting their largest incoming class of over 1,000 in 2015.

After the semester’s add/drop period ended on Friday, Aug. 26, the 2016 freshman class officially contained 950 students, missing admissions’ projected enrollment range of 975 to 1,100; last year, the university had 1,053 students enroll.

According to Longwood Vice President of Strategic Operations Victoria Kindon, the drop in deposits by May 1 - the National Decision day for high school students - was unexpected. Kindon said Longwood’s number of deposits matched or exceeded the university’s projections until the week and a half before the decision day as other universities statewide began to accept students from their waitlists.

“That has a trickledown effect that every institution is feeling right now. There are very few schools that actually hit their target (enrollment) numbers for the spring,” said Kindon. She added even though the 2016 freshman class is lower than the university’s target, it’s “not dramatically smaller.”

Jennifer Green, the associate vice president for enrollment management and student success, headed the 2015-16 admissions cycle as the department continues to go without a dean of admissions.

“When other institutions go to their waitlist, it impacts other institutions. This year, every institution went to their waitlist,” said Green.

Last year, 4,716 prospective Longwood students applied to the university and 63 percent were accepted, according to admissions figures provided by Kindon. Of the 2,971 applicants accepted, 35 percent of the acceptances attended Longwood in the fall leading 2015’s freshman class of 1,053 students.

This year, the university received 565 more applications than during the 2015 cycle, totaling 5,281. Longwood’s acceptance rate held steadily at 63 percent, the same as last year’s cycle. Of the 5,281 applicants, Longwood sent 3,327 prospective students acceptance letters. Twenty-eight percent of the students, 950 students, came to Longwood and remain following the end of the add/drop period.

For the 2016 cycle, the number of acceptances who decided to deposit with the university dropped by seven percent from the previous year.

“(Admissions) is a statistical prediction, and in statistics, you’re using the information that you have and how things have gone for the past few years to figure out how you expect it to be, and in any statistical prediction there’s error,” said Green. “You go with what you have seen, and if something changes you adjust. However, you aren’t adjusting until you see it change.”

Kindon said Longwood chose not to accept more students from their waitlist when their enrollments didn’t meet projections entering the final week and a half.

“If we wanted say we just want to make our number, we could have just accepted more students. But our confidence that they are ready for school and/or going to stay here is not as strong. We want a strong class so we have made conscious decisions on who we’re accepting,” said Kindon. “We’re not going to our waitlist as aggressively as we have in the past … We don’t want a student to have to take out a loan and not have a degree to show for it. So, while we may have a fluctuation in numbers because of that, we’re okay with that.”

The 2016-17 Longwood University operating budget said the annual plan is “based on assumptions related” to enrollment projections, actions by the Virginia state government and revenue and expenditure estimates.

Kindon said the institution didn’t miss the enrollment target enough to affect the annual budget because the budget bases tuition revenue off of credit hour production versus head count. She said while credit hours from the freshman class may be lower than expected, Longwood’s number of transfer students surpassed expectations, helping to balance the deficit.

“From a revenue point of view, the head count is of almost less of a factor than credit hour production,” said Kindon, adding that Longwood’s budget is “conservative” and has “enough cushion to balance out loss.”

Both Green and Kindon listed a number of other factors contributing to the decline in enrollment outside of the unusual waitlist issue despite Longwood’s rising application numbers, saying the increase in applications usually corresponds with an increase in interest in the institution.

They said Longwood competes with private colleges offering tuition at “discounted rates” close or lower than the cost of public universities, the recent viability of community colleges which offers savings on both tuition and room and board and more out-of-state schools recruiting high school graduates from Virginia.

In response to the fluctuation in the 2016 cycle, Green said admissions is “certainly approaching this year with the understanding that what happened this year could be the new norm.”
Update: Plan developing to refund students displaced by fire

by Christine Rindfleisch
Asst. News Editor
@longwoodrotunda

With the recent fire that took place on the night of Monday, Aug. 15 on the north side of Longwood Landings, many students were forced to relocate. These students were ultimately displaced throughout main campus and alternative Longwood-affiliated off-campus sites.

Since many of the students have been moved involuntarily, the difference in cost for the different Longwood-affiliated housing has brought question to the minds of the 102 students that were affected.

Ken Copeland, vice president for administration and finance, assured students that there is a plan in the works to financially compensate for the difference in costs.

“(The plan,) it’s not a full refund because they are living in student housing,” said Copeland in regard to what type of refunds the students should expect.

Copeland explained the the plan will include for a meal plan because the students were expecting to have a kitchen in their apartment complex and are now forced to eat more primarily at Dorrill Dining Hall and on-campus sites.

Students who live in Longwood-managed off-campus housing are required to purchase a minimum meal plan. Copeland further explains that the cost of an increased meal plan will be factored into the plan that is still in the works.

“I have discussed with the folks in student accounts the necessity and the need for us (Longwood) to do something on behalf of these kids that were involuntarily relocated,” added Copeland.

According to Copeland, there have been an unknown number of students that have requested to be released from their housing contract and been granted. These students will not be financially compensated. Copeland reiterated that those students who have been released of their contract have had their bill credited for a semester worth of housing costs.

“There are some extenuating circumstances we just need to make sure we are clear about before we announce the final plan,” said Copeland.

The plan is still being worked out with the options of an across-the-board financial refund to those students affected or tending to the specific needs of the student on more of an individual basis.

“The message that these students need to hear loud in my mind is that we have not forgotten about them, and we certainly have no intention of turning a deaf ear,” said Copeland.

As for the building itself, construction crews have begun working towards reopening, according to Copeland.

While construction crews work to repair the interior damage to the northeast Longwood Landings building, Longwood University’s student accounts and administration and finance offices work on a student compensation plan.

Copeland explained that all of the affected areas are primarily a result of water damage.

“We have concentrated much more on getting the building dry and getting the reconstruction start than we have on the financial side,” added Copeland. Copeland disclosed that the rebuild of the damaged areas will be paid in entirety by insurance, and the insurance adjuster has visited the site itself to evaluate the damage.

‘Landings’ continued from page 1

As the sole owners, Longwood currently holds the retail space, the neighboring lot on Main Street and the parking lot behind Longwood Landings. The retail space contains the Barnes and Noble Bookstore, Moe’s Southwest Grill, Chick-fil-a, SweetFrog and Subway.

“We (Longwood) really wanted to provide a location that was close to campus and, obviously being right next to campus and having 408 students living above there, we felt the space was already a part of campus,” said Waller.

Waller described the purchase as having the “available square footage” that was needed for the project of a temporary fitness center.

“It was a great opportunity to keep at a close space to campus and meet our timeline,” added Waller.

The space’s use once the original location for the Health and Fitness Center is re-opened to students has been discussed, but not decided and cannot be disclosed at this time, according to Waller.

Upkeep of the new facility now includes a mortgage, electric bills, water bills and insurance, according to Waller.

“I think the space is a great temporary solution, and I think that we recognize that it’s not at the level of our permanent and lovely health and fitness center is, but as a temporary location, I think it’s absolutely perfect,” said Waller.

As for the original Health and Fitness Center that is located on the outskirts of campus, it is set to reopen for the spring semester. Since the space is already closed for the debate, Longwood has taken the opportunity to provide for some renovations on the ten-year old building. Waller explains that the space will be adding new floors, which she feels is “an important upgrade.”

The temporary location for the Health and Fitness center is located at Midtown Square, also home to the Longwood Landings, to the right of Subway and across from Moe’s Southwest Grill.
In this week’s Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, a new senate bill was approved by the senate. The bill involved the Graduate Student Association (GSA), as well as Resident and Commuter Life (RCL).

In the bill, both the GSA and RCL are allowed to receive lump sum allocations and become exempt from certain Student Finance Committee spending policies and per diems. The bill adds how GSA will receive $5 per graduate credit hour enrolled where student fees are generated. In addition, $1,000 will be guaranteed to the GSA that will be given at the start of the year for programming. These funds will be used for events as well as opportunities for the GSA.

The bill also exempted GSA from the per diem rules, which limits how much they can be reimbursed for travel. Treasurer Dustyn Hall said per diem state regulations prohibited the university from paying over 32 cents per mile when reimbursing travel costs like gas or bus rentals.

Hall revised that section of the bill to follow state laws to reflect the 32-cent limitation, finalizing the bill. The finished version was then passed by the SGA.

Vice President of Student Affairs Tim Pierson disclosed to the SGA that a lot of the construction on campus was on the master plan and wasn’t primarily for the upcoming vice presidential debate, but moved up because of the event. These projects include the new entrance sign on the end of campus as well as the Willett Plaza.

Senator Rebecca Doody added that due to the construction taking place on the side entrance on Willett Hall, one of the crowns that is associated with Princeps has been painted over. She asked if there was a plan in place to keep the seven crowns on campus.

SGA President Dillon Yonker answered the question raised by Doody. He said that in years past, students were able to vote for a new location of the crown to keep the tradition alive.

Much discussion surfaced in the SGA when it came to the shock that many senators had experienced when trying to swipe in a guest at Dorrill Dining Hall with either a Block 40 or Block 80 plan. Beginning this year, those with a Block 40 or Block 80 plan can no longer use their meal swipes as guest swipes at the dining hall. Many senators spoke, appalled with the action by dining services and felt frustrated. The senators said dining services failed to inform students about the new policy.

Newly-appointed Executive Senator Kevin Napier said his main issue with the change was the lack of knowledge he had of the implementation of the new policy.

Secretary Sarah Kensy voiced concern with some students approaching her with complaints about construction workers allegedly “cat-calling” them, which made the students uncomfortable.

Pierson added the issue has been brought up in prior years and will be addressed again. Pierson said the problem has previously resulted in the relieving of the work done by those companies.

Historian Maribeth Stotler-Watkins said she felt alarmed by the fact that there aren’t any blue emergency call poles in front of the library anymore and felt the issue needs to be addressed.

Junior Class President Praise Nyambiya shared with the SGA how he has heard several complaints about students having issues with hit-and-runs, particularly in the residential parking lots on the outskirts of campus. Nyambiya said, in addition to the hit-and-run issue, the parking lots themselves are inadequate compared to the other lots that are often utilized by faculty because the ones used by students are on gravel lots rather than concrete. He felt that students pay a large sum of money to use an inadequate parking spot.

There will be no SGA meeting on Sept. 6, but SGA will resume on Sept. 13 in the Martinelli Board Room located in the Maugans Alumni Center at 3:45 p.m.
Word on Campus:
Why did mail services move to Graham Hall?

by Halle Parker
Editor-in-Chief
@_thehalparker

Over the summer, Longwood University’s mail services department permanently moved from the post office location on the ground level of the Lankford Student Union to Graham Hall.

According to Director of Mail and Printing Services Tim Trent, the move had been planned for over a year and was “beta-tested” last year.

“I could have done it at any point,” said Trent. He said he was prepared to move the location in the spring semester, but the modifications to Graham, previously hosting only printing services, were not fully completed, and he saw “no immediate need.”

Beginning construction on the new Student Success Center building between the student union and the library was one of the factors affecting the timing of the move, said Trent. Due to the construction, the loading dock on the side of the student union was rendered inaccessible, and mail carriers or post office workers would have to carry packages from down the street, said Trent. Graham Hall returns the mail service’s access to a loading dock.

With the move, the university mail system transitioned to a virtual post office box versus a physical box requiring a combination lock.

“Ultimately, because of declining (First Class) mail volume, many universities have gone back to this system,” said Trent, adding packages make up the majority of student mail the office receives.

The barcode system links a student’s virtual box number to their L number and email. When mail arrives, a barcode is placed on the package or letter and placed in a gridded cubby system, according to Trent. An automated email is sent to the student recipient, notifying them of the mail’s arrival and carries the location of the item.

Trent said the cycle of mail services and exchange is circular; the mail arrives, is held in the facility, then leaves with the owner. Due to the temporary nature of mail, Trent said Graham’s smaller facility works because “none (is) intended to remain here.”

“It comes in, it goes out the door,” he said. “It’s rare for people to take over a week to come in.”

Trent said the Graham’s crowded lobby was an indicator of the virtual system’s efficiency. He added the long lines are nothing new from the wait time in the old post office.

Graham Hall housed only printing services prior to this year. After three years as the director with both services under different roofs, Trent said it was a “challenge.”

“I wanted to coexist under one roof,” he said, “Obviously, I can do a better job managing.”

He said having both services in one location will allow him to have more direct supervision over employees as well as cross train them to work in both areas.

Longwood Executive Director of Campus Planning, Construction and Real Estate Foundation Louise Waller said, “It is a win/win for both departments. It also leverages new technology to help us maximize work practice efficiencies as well as enhance space utilization.”

According to Waller, the university is “investigating options” for the abandoned post office area “to make sure the space is used to its highest and best potential.”

Trent said the university plans to repurpose the space for faculty offices.

Follow Us:
Breaking News | Live Coverage
@LongwoodRotunda
Update: Construction on campus

by Christine Rindfleisch
Asst. News Editor
@longwoodrotunda

Currently, there are two major projects located on campus that are under construction: the Student Success Center and the Upchurch University Center. In addition to those two projects, Willett Hall is also in the final stages of construction. Recently approved by the General Assembly, there are two new buildings set to start construction: a new Admissions building and a new academic building.

The new Student Success Center is located in between the Greenwood Library and the Lankford Student Union. Due to the fact that the site is located over the entrance of a parking garage, the foundation structure by the parking garage has made it more difficult to get the foundation set for the new building, according to Louise Waller, executive director of campus planning and construction.

“(Getting the foundation structure correct) is very critical to this project, and it’s a bit challenging with this location,” said Waller.

Waller further explained that given the tight space, weather has also impacted the progress made in breaking ground. The project is set to be completely finished the summer of 2017 and is “on schedule” according to Waller.

“We have a lot of faith in our contractor,” added Waller.

The new Upchurch University Center is located right across from Hiner Hall and has recently started to see the foundation work in progress. The project is set to be complete in late Spring of 2018. The university center will include a Starbucks, Panda Express and Au Bon Pain.

“It’s an exciting project for all of us,” reiterated Waller.

Willett Hall, which is set to be the stage for the upcoming Vice Presidential Debate on Oct. 4 is in the final stages of construction of the new façade, according to Waller. The building is undergoing minor tweaks in the fire alarm system and the roof before opening. The building is set to be complete mid-Sept.

Sharp and Register residence halls located in front of Arch Hall have been completed.

“We (Longwood) are still in the design phases of the new admissions building and the new academic building. The last general assembly session, we were given the appropriation to finish up the design plan and move towards construction,” added Waller.

The new admissions building is set to be located across from Ruffner Hall in the same location it currently resides. The building’s exterior will include the architecture that is currently displayed on the front of campus and is the “perfect place to bring potential students,” Waller explained.

The new admissions office building will include several adaptable conference and presentation rooms for interviews, space for group presentations and events, private offices for staff personnel to hold interviews, according to longwood.edu.

“Both of those projects are very exciting for campus,” Waller exuded.

The other project that has recently been approved is a new academic building that is set to be located behind French Hall where the previous tennis courts were prior to their new location on the side of Willett Hall.

The building itself will be approximately 42,000 gross square feet, according to longwood.edu.

“It’s a little early to anticipate when we are going to break ground on these projects,” said Waller.

Both projects have been approved and are finishing up with the drawing phase in order to take the next step in starting construction. Waller discloses that both projects will be breaking ground within the next one to two years.

#AmINext

Hampden-Sydney’s Dean of Inclusion Hakeem Croom and Longwood alum Karima ElMadany organized the Am I Next: Debunking Stereotypes peace walk and discussion, held at the Moton Museum. Thursday evening’s event promoted understanding between the African-American and law enforcement communities.
Longwood goes global

by Emily Kratzer
Contributor
@longwoodrotunda

Thursday, Sept. 1 brought an opportunity for Longwood students to gain a new perspective on international students and studying abroad. Longwood’s Global Leaders hosted an activity at Brock Commons that allowed students to have a visual on how they fit in the relationship with our world at large.

Students were asked the question, “How can you be a global citizen?” The answers were written on green Post-Its, which were then combined together to form a tree, the answers making up the leaves.

Longwood’s Global Leaders play a huge role for international students, as a peer mentor would for an average incoming student. Global Leaders are in charge of picking up new international students at airports, helping them move in and helping them adjust to their new home here on campus.

“I believe that our efforts make the international students feel more comfortable adjusting not only to campus life, but American culture as well, so they take something away from us,” said Benjamin Lambert, a global leader. “I chose to be a Global Leader because I wanted to not only learn about different cultures around the world, but also help international students learn about our culture as Americans as well.”

Lambert’s international student from Saudi Arabia, Helal Almutairi, has been helping him learn Arabic while Lambert helps him learn more about our American culture. Almutairi is here on scholarship and enjoys Longwood because of its environment that it provides for students. He also favors how Longwood professors allow their students to study in a comfortable pace. He plans to major in computer science.

“We learn from each other,” said Lambert.

“They (the Global Leaders) were the first people I encountered from Longwood University and they helped me move to campus,” said Almutairi. “They showed me everything I needed to know.”

The event continued in the Lankford Ballroom at the Study Abroad Fair. Students and faculty were able to explore all the different study abroad options that are available as a Lancer, as well as gain more information on the Global Leaders program.

For freshman music education major Sydney Snowden, the desire to be a high school choir teacher has always been clear. Growing up in Williamsburg, the emphasis on family was a main focus for her.

Snowden was nine years old when her younger brother, Owen, was born with Down Syndrome. At a young age, she was expected to help take care of him which helped her “gain skills (to) care for someone.”

Her inspiration for teaching stems from all of the time she spent reading to Owen and teaching him basic skills. But in her time helping her brother, she learned more about how to interact with others with disabilities.

Nothing struck her more about how important her younger brother is to her than a recent trip to Yellowstone National Park in which she was able to connect to Owen on the plane ride home, “sitting next to him, I realized how much (I connected with him) … and I realized how much of a great brother (he is, despite his disability). With all the time Snowden has spent caring for her younger brother, she has learned a valuable lesson. “A lot of people don’t realize that all people with disorders are very different.” Snowden said.

Snowden emphasized the difference between autism and Down Syndrome and how they interact with people. Similarly, there is a difference between physical and mental disabilities and how you treat those people are wildly diverse.

Snowden has witnessed people with disorders be mistreated by peers, and she could not bear the thought of this one day happening to Owen. The love she has for her brother largely impacts how she interacts with others. “He has made me focus more on being very intentionally kind.” Snowden said. “If I see someone (being) bullied … or sitting alone, I feel very called to reach out to them.”
With the school year now in full swing, Farmville has tried something new and enjoyable for people of all ages: an end of summer celebration. The “Labor Day Fireworks Event” was held on Saturday, Sept. 4 at the Farmville Regional Airport complete with fireworks, food vendors and music.

The musical groups featured include ShugaSIZED Band followed by The Suit and Tie Band. These bands performed covers of various popular songs such as Robin Thicke’s “Blurred Lines,” “Hey Ya” by Outkast, “Purple Rain” by Prince, Sam Cooke’s “You Send Me” and “My Girl” by The Temptations.

No event like this is complete without a plethora of food options, giving business opportunities to local mom and pop catering outlets. Various flavors of fresh squeezed lemonade were available along with wood-fired pizza, funnel cakes, Italian sausage, burgers and much more.

The celebration wrapped up with the main event: an impressive display of fireworks that did not disappoint. While many firework displays send off a multitude of works all at once and finish under 15 minutes, this particular show went on for an exciting 30 minutes.

This half-hour display combined the explosions in a manner of both spreading them out throughout some parts of the show and launching them in rapid succession at others.

Another unique quality of this show was the audience’s proximity to the action; the celebration-goers were a lot closer to the action than they would be at your typical fireworks event.

“My favorite part of the event was seeing the families and children come out, have fun and enjoy a community event,” said John Burton, a Farmville resident and Longwood University 2006 graduate. Burton attended as a representative of the Farmville Downtown Partnership, a company that organizes events like this.

For the first time, Farmville has put on the Labor Day Fireworks event, which came out of last year’s Fourth of July celebration when it had to be pushed back to Labor Day.

“The Suit and Tie Band did an amazing job, and before them I really liked the ShugaSIZED Band,” stated Burton. “I thought they did a great job (playing) lots of really fun music. (They) got the crowd popping.”
Movie Review: “Don’t Breathe”

by Robert Watkins & Adam Turner
Contributors
@longwoodrotunda

Breaking into someone’s house is always a bad idea, but when your target is an unknown vicious psychopath, things are bound to become even more terrifying. “Don’t Breathe” is brutal, intense and scary while also managing to stay fast-paced and simplistic.

The film follows three thieves as they attempt to rob what seems to be an easy target: an unnamed elderly blind man who they suspect to be hiding a large fortune in his small, dilapidated house. But the thieves soon find out that the man has violently honed his other senses and traps them in his house after learning their motives.

By far, the film’s greatest strength is its feeling of claustrophobia that waxes and wanes as the blind man and the thieves go back and forth, each using their strengths and handicaps to gain the upper hand.

The suspense builds every moment the thieves are there and as the audience starts to learn the layout of the small dark house, it becomes fun guessing where the blind man could be as he ominously marches around the darkness he has adapted to.

However, eventually the audience realizes the gravity of the scary situation for both the man as well as the thieves. It is due to this that “Don’t Breathe” adds layers to its narrative by painting both parties as characters that deserve the viewer’s sympathy in some way.

Whether it’s the thieves that see this man’s money as a way out of a horrible life or the blind man’s need to defend himself from those that are robbing him, the viewer does not always know who to root for during the film’s run.

A film truly succeeds when it makes us question what we see as right and wrong while also identifying with both the protagonist as well as the antagonist; we recognize their actions as a clash of realistic human nature as opposed to simply good versus evil.

“Don’t Breathe” is a very scary movie with a plot whose ingenuity and intelligence slowly reveals itself as we witness a situation that is terrifying in its humanity, all the while entertaining in its execution. It is easy to get the feeling that you are breathing down the thieves’ necks as they desperately try to escape, but the real suspense comes from the lifeless eyes of the blind man that you can feel glaring at you even in the darkness of the theater.

Turner: 3/5 stars
Watkins: 4/5 stars
Overall: 3.5/5 stars
On Sept. 4, comedian Eric O'Shea came to Wygal Hall for one of Lancer Productions’ first events of the year.

According to Lancer Productions, the New York City based comedian has appeared on NBC, VH-1 and Sirius XM Radio. O’Shea has quite the resume with over 4 million hits on YouTube, seven nominations for national college comedian of the year and a performance with Betty White at the Creative Emmy Awards.

With such a resume and back history, O’Shea has built himself a bit of pressure to deliver. But rest assured, O’Shea lived up to the bill delivering a terrific show that perfectly appealed to the college crowd.

The veteran comedian found a balance in his rapid style of comedic delivery, firing off bits of what seemed to be a combination of free-formed and pre-written jokes. O’Shea’s pumped up routine kept the show at a good pace as his semi-long tangents usually elicited laughter long enough to find pockets to layer in his written material.

Nonetheless, O’Shea was consistently entertaining, particularly in finding his niche playfully imitating the crowd’s young wide-eyed students. In fact, a majority of the content was based off of imitating the students and their coming-of-age moments while being in college. He also took great pleasure in making fun of Farmville’s population or lack thereof.

O’Shea frequently picked on audience members, never hurtfully, rather singling out people for particular oddities. Such was the case with a student whom often laughed seconds after the audience, only notably obvious because of the intimate space in Wygal Hall.

Another older audience member seemed to be positioned squarely in the back to be the butt of a lot of O’Shea’s jokes. “Red-shirt guy” as O’Shea would later name him, seemed to be in good spirits as the jokes piled on.

Amongst O’Shea’s strongest attributes on display was his ability to relate to the audience. He constantly poked fun at his life in relation to everyone else’s; for example, one standout statement was his exclamation, “We’re all whacked!”

The ending skit, which drew the biggest applause was a rendition of popular songs throughout the years serving as the music for advertisement parodies. Among those were The Weeknd’s “Can’t Feel My Face,” acting as an advertisement for Novocain.

There aren’t many criticisms to make about O’Shea’s performance; for the most part, he was constantly entertaining while pandering the audience. His raunchy jokes were just enough to make the audience laugh but not too overwhelming.

He cursed in bits throughout the night, making sure the explicit jokes had exclamation and were not simply for the sake of cursing. If anything, he may have been a bit silly, but not to the point that it became annoying to the audience.

O’shea delivered a solid set that went over well with the audience while keeping them engaged and laughing throughout the night.
Sarah’s Something: Everything has its season

By Sarah Kensy
Opinions Staff
@kensysarah

Everything has its season, even items with the flavor, scent or anything else you can think of that has the words “pumpkin spice” attached to it. And, just in case you didn't know, the season for that definitely isn’t in August.

Now, I want to say that I do understand the hype of pumpkin-flavored things. When I see the words pumpkin spice pop up at Starbucks, a little tingle goes through my soul and my heart skips a beat. It’s such a special feeling because it means that finally fall is here, but when I see that happy little orange cup of coffee in August, I am utterly confused.

As a society and even a community, we need to stop rushing these things and remind each other that everything has a time it should happen. We need to start living in the moment and focus on what is happening around us now instead of rushing through each season to the next. It makes life so much more chaotic when we do so.

If we take a step back and realize that it’s not something’s time, life becomes so much more simple. We can then look at everything around us and simply enjoy the semi-cruel beauty of a warm August day. It makes us appreciate that cold pumpkin spice season a little more.

Now, trust me, once the end of September rolls around and the air is crisp and cool, it will then be a totally appropriate time to get that warm cup of coffee and snap an Instagram picture with it. Your barista will also judge you a little less.

Until then, let’s stop the premature pumpkin spice mania and enjoy the rest of summer, because, let’s be honest, when winter rolls around, we will all be wanting these hot August days back.

Bad luck at Longwood: Multiple accidents point to possible bad luck from the debate

By Cassie Tagert
Copy Editor
@longwoodrotunda

On Aug. 15, the Longwood Landings Northeast building were struck by lighting and set on fire, causing an array of problems such as water damage and displaced students. Then, on Aug. 30, a couple driving through Farmville lost control of their brakes and careened into a house off of High Street, ripping a hole through the foundation of the house and breaking a window. A few days ago on Sept. 2, an oven fire in the Longwood Landings led to another, more temporary, displacement of students as the Farmville Fire Department battled a second fire this semester.

Over the past two years, I have experienced hearing police sirens more times than I can count. With a town full of college students, it seems like our local police and fire departments are always busy. However, this year appears to have been set with a darker tone as the damage and effect on our community has been more substantial.

I’ve heard whispers about it already, but I will be the first to come out and say, maybe it’s because of the debate. Honestly, the debate has never really bothered me the way it has bothered some students. I feel like a lot of the changes we are experiencing may have happened with or without the Vice Presidential Debate coming to Farmville. Though, it is the only thing that I can think of that has really changed.

It is already clear that there are a number of students that are upset by the debate and who think that Longwood is putting their own politics before the needs of the students. There is a lingering possibility that the aforementioned events are a sort of karma, resulting from a lack of attention to our students’ needs. Maybe it is all a coincidence, but it will be interesting to see what else happens as we get closer to Oct. 4.

*Disclaimer: These views expressed in this article do not represent the views of the Rotunda.*
Alright, so the topic this week is cats versus dogs or something like that. Well, I am here to tell you why cats are better (not that I should have to) because, I am a cat. Yes, it’s true, I am indeed a cat. I’m certainly not a human pretending to be a cat for the purposes of this column, so don’t go there. How am I typing with paws? Don’t worry about it.

Ok, let’s get to it, because I have naps to take. It’s obvious that cats are superior, and I shouldn’t have to explain why, but I will just for you, since I know you human types can be slow sometimes.

Firstly, we should be preferred due to our incredible generosity. We are truly the most altruistic creatures on the planet—we let you live in our homes, after all. Also, we let you pet us and, to reciprocate, we bring you gifts.

We also help you keep your life together, because let’s face it humans, you would just fall apart without us. That’s why us cats like to curl up on your keyboard when you are working or get right in the way of that book you’re reading, to help you maintain that perfect work—life balance. Like I said, you’d simply fall to bits without us.

Another reason as to why cats are primo, not that you should need one: think about how easy we are to live with. Cats don’t eat your shoes, bark at three in the morning, or even require constant attention. Just leave us a bowl of food, water and a clean litter box and we are set. (Oh, and a toy, please)

Speaking of ease of living, us cats smell much better than dogs. Dogs come in from the outside and smell like...well, dog. They can’t even clean themselves! The only reason canines are man’s best friend is because they couldn’t survive without you meat bags to feed them, walk them, and pick up their poop. Us felines are much more self reliant.

Moving on, have I mentioned the fact that we are funny as hell? There is a reason the Internet is filled with more funny cat videos than dog videos. We cats are the masters of comedic timing, and can easily get our clown on in your living room. If your Labrador tried to play around inside, you would quickly find your house a mess. Cats: biggest entertainment in the smallest package.

So, there you go human, all reasons why you need a cat. We’re the best and we don’t need you to pick up our poop from the sidewalk.

I am dog, and I am here to tell you why dogs are more pawsome than cats.

First, I know that cats and their human followers will be hissercal about being told that we, dogs, are better (I’m not worried – I know they know it’s true deep inside), but that brings me to my first point. Dogs love humans. Humans love dogs. Humans are not dogs’ followers. They are our pack leaders. We look to them for guidance and food, and in return, we are loyal and give them love. What do cats do? They have a lot of ‘alone time’, but suddenly when feeding time comes, they remember they ‘have’ humans and rub on their leg or sit on their face if they aren’t awake yet.

That leads me to my next point, it may seem purrplexing, but a cat rubbing on your leg is not a sign of love. It is their way of marking their territory. That’s right, you cat loving fools! They tricked you! They aren’t giving you love; they are making sure you remember that they OWN you. With dogs, it’s simple. We lick, we follow, we protect from squirrels, we love. No strings attached.

I have heard some humans say that cats are smarter than dogs. I disagree. I don’t know any cats who have figured out that if they do easy things like sitting or lying down, they get treats.

It isn’t even a secret! Humans ask you to sit, you sit, you get treat. They just don’t get it. Also, dogs are not as easily entertained by things like sitting in a cardboard box and following a piece of string. We, dogs, are more advanced and enjoy the fancier things in life like chasing the mailman and bringing back stick. I still don’t know why humans throw sticks and then immediately want them back, but it sure is a fun game to play.

Some humans also say that cats are easier to take care of than dogs. One reason they say this is because they don’t take their cats on walks. First of all, that doesn’t make any sense because walks are the meaning of life. To walk with human is to spend time with someone you love and at the same time smell everything that has peed in one spot. Also, cats probably do need walks. When cats don’t get walked, they get fat, really, really fat. Some people say that it’s easier to pick after them because they use a litter box in their house. I’m not sure about this because dogs do not go in the same place they sleep; they just don’t. So, that’s more proof that cats and all cat owners are weird.

There are lots of reasons that dogs are better. So, forget the cats; join the bark side.
WTEN: Maria Lopez named head coach

Barry University assistant coach Maria Lopez has been named head coach of the Longwood women’s tennis program. She replaces interim coach Rich Stoneman, who stepped in last season following the departure of former coach Bruce Myers.

Lopez spent six successful years as the assistant coach of Barry’s women’s tennis team, as she helped guide the Buccaneers to an impressive 150-10 record over that time. Her alma mater also collected six straight Sunshine State Conference titles and the NCAA Division II national title in 2011 and 2014.

Lancer fans hope that Lopez will bring some much-needed stability to a program that has suffered turbulence in recent times. Last March, in his second season in charge, Myers resigned as head coach to take the same position at the University of Delaware’s men’s tennis program. Assistant women’s soccer coach Stoneman was named interim head coach, and went 4-7 over the final 11 matches of the season, including an opening-round defeat to Radford in the Big South Tournament.

Lopez takes the reins at a Longwood program that is on the rise, with consecutive 10-win seasons for the first time since joining the Big South. She spoke about her eagerness to lead the Lancers squad that collected a 10-14 (2-6) record, finishing in a school-record eighth place last season.

“I’m excited and honored to have the opportunity to lead the Longwood University women’s tennis program,” Lopez said on the official Longwood athletics website. “I would like to thank Troy Austin, Maya Ozery and the rest of the search committee for trusting in my abilities as a person and coach to lead the student-athletes and foster their exceptional success on and off the court. I’m looking forward to being a part of the Longwood family and developing the program to become a leader in the Big South Conference.”

The Lancers hope that Lopez will emulate her successes with Barry as well as her own career.
MSOC: Lancers snag road draw

Zach Corcoran's 83rd minute goal snatched a 1-1 draw for the Longwood men's soccer team against George Mason. The redshirt senior midfielder's late equalizer cancelled out a Longwood own goal in the 34th minute, and leaves the Lancers at 1-0-1 this season.

Despite being outshot 16-11 by the Patriots, who also had a greater share of possession, Longwood head coach Jon Atkinson was pleased with his side's performance away from home.

"This was a well-earned point on the road against a team that is looking to get their season started," said Atkinson on the official Longwood athletics website. "I saw great purpose in our ight back and I felt we thoroughly deserved a result, showing great character."

The first 45 minutes were cagey as each side only had two shots on target, but the difference came 34 minutes in with Longwood putting one in their own net. The Patriots' senior forward Matt Tucker poked a ball into the Lancer penalty box, where a failed Longwood clearance ended up giving the home side a 1-0 lead at the break.

"We didn’t have much concern in the game until we gave up an own goal and fought for the remainder of the half," said Atkinson on the official Longwood athletics website.

Things opened up offensively in the second half, as George Mason pushed for a second and the Lancers looked to level the score. The Patriots blasted nine shots in the second half, but were denied by senior goalkeeper Carlos Canas, who made a total of five saves for the visitors.

Longwood's resistance paid off with just seven minutes left as redshirt sophomore forward Mo Jalloh fed Corcoran on the right of the box, and the senior made no mistake, tying the score at 1-1.

"We continue to find ways to beat ourselves, and our level of opposition is always going to take advantage of that," said Dyer on the official Longwood athletics website. "All we can do is own up to where we stand right now and figure out a way to be better on both sides of the ball."

Junior goalkeeper Maria Kirby made three saves in Longwood's 3-1 road loss to Youngstown State University.

WSOC: Rough start continues in Ohio

The Longwood women's soccer team gave up two goals in the final 15 minutes as they lost to Youngstown State 3-1 on Sept. 4. The loss dropped the Lancers to 1-4-0 this season, as their bumpy start to the season continued in Youngstown, Oh.

Two days after beating Duquesne for their first win of the season, senior forward Christina Corbin's 17th minute goal looked to continue the Lancers' turnaround. But just 61 seconds later, the Penguins equalized through junior midfielder Ernestina Abambila.

Despite Longwood controlling the run of play and outshooting the home side 9-5, the two sides went into the break level at 1-1. Their inability to make that control count would cost head coach Todd Dyer's side in the second half.

"We continue to find ways to beat ourselves, and our level of opposition is always going to take advantage of that," said Dyer on the official Longwood athletics website. "All we can do is own up to where we stand right now and figure out a way to be better on both sides of the ball."

The second half was a different story to the opening 45 minutes as Youngstown State took control. The Penguins' offensive pressure broke through in the 77th minute as Abambila notched her second goal to give the home side a 2-1 lead. Abambila turned provider in the 85th minute, teeing up sophomore midfielder Madison Hughes to finish the game out for Youngstown State.

Defensive woes continue to plague the Lancers, who have failed to keep a clean sheet in any of their five games this season. Meanwhile, the offense has begun to click, as they outshot the Penguins 13-12, but is still not firing on all cylinders, as evidenced by eight offside calls on Sunday.

The Lancers will look to put their rough start to the season behind them as they face American University on Sept. 8 in Washington D.C.
The Look
Three-quarter length black shirt (American Eagle), button-down A-line blue jean skirt (American Eagle), Arizona Taupe Suede sandals (Birkenstock), patterned neckerchief (Goodwill), square diamond earrings set in gold (Target), tortoise shell watch (Fossil), white stone ring with black trim set in silver (Goodwill), pale olive messenger bag (Fossil)

The Model
Olivia Pedigo is a senior theatre major with a concentration in performance from Chesapeake, Va. She is involved in the Cormier Honors College, as well as the social chair in the Theatre's Honor Society, Alpha Psi Omega. Pedigo is currently in the rehearsal process of Longwood University's production of “Antigone” (Jean Anouilh's adaptation) playing Antigone’s sister, Ismene.

The Inspiration
Pedigo's style is a reflection of her artistic interests, with inspiration normally pulling from her Pinterest boards, other various social media accounts and select celebrities.

“Well, a lot of what I think about is normally my Pinterest boards... I have a little bit of a Pinterest obsession. Basically, what I think about is what I have to do for the day; if I'm going to be in CSTAC (Communication Studies and Theatrical Arts Center) and in rehearsals, I have to wear closed-toed shoes, so it’s that kind of thing that really influences what I'm going to be wearing... I like to think of my style as artsy-boho, like Taylor Swift, I think she has great style.”

Aside from Taylor Swift, Pedigo’s style is derivative from other celebrities, including Florence Welch and YouTuber Ingrid Nilsen. She is also fond of the companies Madewell and Fossil, as well as magazines: The Everygirl, Man Repeller, Nylon and the recently discontinued Lucky.