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Kiersten Freedman

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## Joshua Blakely named director for Brock Experiences

### Plans include new Arctic Circle trip



CARSON REEHER | THE ROTUNDA

The Brock Experience will fund programs that allow students to learn in place-based environments, modeled after Longwood's annual trip to Yellowstone National Park.

by Christine Rindfleisch  
News Editor  
@longwoodrotunda

Joshua Blakely was named the Program Director for the Brock Experiences for Transformational Learning in late Jan. early Feb.

This decision came after Longwood alumna Joan Brock and her husband Macon Brock Jr., donated \$5.9 million to the

university to create more "place-based" immersive learning experiences for students, according to a press release from the Office of Public Relations on Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016.

— "BROCK" CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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# Death Cafe to be held on March 28

by Rachel Baines  
Contributor  
@longwoodrotunda

The Death Café was created to be a place for people to get together and talk about death with no agenda set in place. At a typical Death Café meeting, people who are often strangers get in groups with a facilitator to eat cookies, drink tea and then talk about death.

It is not to be seen as a counseling session or a bereavement support group, but rather a discussion group about death. The Death Café began in the United Kingdom in September 2011 and has since spread into the United States and received attention from media such as the New York Times and USA Today.

Our society is often afraid of death and dying and makes attempts to avoid it altogether. The objective of a Death Café is to create an awareness and form an open space to talk about death.

Longwood's first Death Café will be held on Tuesday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the Nance Room. All students and faculty are encouraged to join the conversation about death.

To RSVP for the event, people can email Shelley Sheets at [shelley.sheets@live.longwood.edu](mailto:shelley.sheets@live.longwood.edu).

## DEATH CAFÉ

Coffee. Cookies. Death.

The Death Café is a worldwide movement dedicated to bringing discussion of death into a relaxed environment.

The Death Cafe is a group-directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives, or themes. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counseling session.

When?  
Tuesday March 28  
6:30 pm

Where?  
The Nance Room in  
Dorrill Dining Hall  
Refreshments will be  
provided.



Space is limited. Reserve  
your spot at the table!  
Email [shelley.sheets@live.longwood.edu](mailto:shelley.sheets@live.longwood.edu)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

## March 20

Greek Sync in Jarman Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Debate in Lankford Student Union Ballroom, 6 p.m.

Longwood International Film Festival shows "La Gran Familia Española" in Blackwell Ballroom, 7 p.m.

## March 22

Dollar Tree founder Macon Brock talk and book signing in Greenwood Library, 3:30 p.m.

The Rotunda hosts "Speak Up" on Brock Commons, 12 p.m.

Walk a Mile in Their Shoes on Brock Commons, 4 p.m.

Zero to Sixty performances in Fitzhugh Samuel Lab Theatre, 7 p.m.

Longwood International Film Festival shows "Like Father, Like Son" in Blackwell Ballroom, 7 p.m.

## March 23

Longwood's Got Talent in Jarman Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Longwood Author's Series presents Steven Faulkner in Wygal Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Longwood Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert in Jarman Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Longwood International Film Festival shows Morris from America in Blackwell Ballroom, 7 p.m.

## March 24

Longwood Animation Film Festival in Bedford Auditorium, 1 p.m.

Relay for Life in Health and Fitness Center, 5 p.m.





COURTESY OF LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

Dollar Tree founder Mason Brock donated \$5.9 million toward starting the program now called the Brock Experience in November.

— “BROCK” CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

“My role will be to assist faculty when they create courses,” said Blakely.

Currently, the program is working to launch Longwood University @ the Arctic Circle for Summer 2017 in Alaska.

The Brock Experiences will be designed after Longwood University at Yellowstone National Park, otherwise known as LU@ YNP, according to the release.

Blakely has worked apart of the LU@ YNP team for many years, according to Dr. Alix Fink, dean of the Cormier Honors College and associate professor of Biology.

“We’ve worked together for a long time, and Blakely has been a very important member of the Yellowstone team because he brings that student affairs perspective to the team and so really a hallmark for the Yellowstone program is the partnership between the folks in student affairs and the folks in academic affairs and Josh Blakely and Jen Cox, director of local and community relations, have been an important part of that,” said Fink.

Students who participate in the Yellowstone program are involved in experiences pertaining to the stewardship of our public land. Students will be asked to meet with stakeholders in addition to talking with people in the local community to better understand the issues surrounding the land, according to Fink.

According to Fink, President Taylor Reveley IV selected a group of faculty and staff members to lead the implementation of the program including Fink, Blakely and Dr. Joan Neff, provost and vice president for academic affairs and professor of sociology, Dr. Kenneth B. Perkins, director of development for academic priorities and provost emeritus, Justin

Pope, chief of staff for the president’s office and Dr. Pamela Tracy, associate professor of communication studies and director of the center for faculty enrichment, otherwise known as CAFE.

Blakely will be selecting new fellows annually with a two-year development process for the courses.

The first version of the Brock Experiences of LU@TAC will start summer 2018 with a full launch of the program in summer 2019, according to Blakely.

“It’s pretty amazing, what’s in place,” said Blakely.

Dr. Phillip Poplin, associate professor of mathematics and Dr. JoEllen G. Pederson, assistant professor of Sociology, are managing the artice circle program and they are using the contacts from our Alaskan program, according to Fink.

Blakely disclosed that those who lead the course will receive a \$10,000 stipend.

“Once we get three or four years going, we will have six eight or ten brock experiences in the works that students will be able to choose what they want,” added Blakely.

“The new Brock program is going to have an incredible impact on the students because these are experiences that will immerse our students in critical civic issues,” said Fink. “These experiences are incredibly important because they so directly support the mission of citizen leadership.”

For more information about LU@ The Arctic Circle there are three upcoming interest meetings on Monday, Feb. 20 in Ruffner Hall 115, Tuesday, Feb. 21 in Ruffner Hall 108 and Monday, Feb. 27 in Ruffner Hall 115 all at 4:00 p.m.

# JOIN THE ROTUNDA

## MEETINGS IN BEDFORD 106 MONDAYS AT 7 P.M.

# Library to continue with upgrades

## New electrical outlets, fireplaces and plans of a DigiLab

by Jesse Plichta-Kellar  
News Staff  
@JesseKellar



EVA WITTKOSKI | CONTRIBUTOR

**The Greenwood Library is currently renovating, adding electric fireplaces and more outlets beneath their tables. Library dean Brent Roberts said they are trying to modernize the building.**

Greenwood Library began installing upgrades over the week of March 6-10. The upgrades included adding electric fireplaces and installing more outlets. The library plans to purchase new furniture in the future, and to create a DigiLab for students.

According to Sarah Reynolds, research service librarian at Greenwood Library, electric outlets were a priority.

"The most recent change we've added electrical outlets along the side in our group study area," Reynolds explained. "There was no electricity there. We've added outlets under each of the 12 tables along that railing, and we've also added four new outlets along the windows."

Dean of Greenwood Library Brent Roberts, added how the outlets were the first priority that was mentioned by the SGA.

"I visited SGA within my first month at Longwood, they suggested having more electrical outlets, that was a definite need," said Roberts.

"Adding electricity, we know that the future of the world is devices, and devices need power," Reynolds added.

In addition to the electrical upgrades, the library also added two artificial fireplaces to add a cozy factor to the library, according to Roberts.

"We have added a couple of fireplaces, at two locations in the library," Reynolds said. "One is down near our

magazines, where there's some leather couches, and also one in what we call our Humanities Reading Room, which is off of the group study space. We've added a fireplace in there, just to add some comfort."

"They are electric fireplaces...They're very cozy," Roberts added. "We know that students are busy. A lot of them are working, a lot of them are involved in clubs and organizations so when they come to the library, they need not just the technology, not just the information, they need a nice environment in which to study."

Additionally, the library plans to replace the chairs and tables in the upstairs study place.

"Moving forward, we'd (the library) like to replace the chairs upstairs, and respond to student needs and how we can make the space open, inviting and usable for what students need," said Reynolds. "We're looking into purchasing tables that have electricity built right into them, so you wouldn't have to reach around."

The chairs have been at Greenwood Library since the building was built, and were in use for decades before that.

"We're looking for modernizing, updating, that kind of thing...We're looking at chairs on casters so students can move them around to collaborate," said Reynolds.

Additionally, the library is working with the Digital Education Collaborative (DEC) to create a "DigiLab."

Students were asked what a good name for the project would be, and Digilab was the most popular option.

"We are partners (DEC and library) in creating the Digilab, that's the name students came up with," said Roberts.

The DigiLab will be a resource for various kinds of technologies, according to Roberts.

"In the DigiLab, we will have access to all sorts of fun and educational technologies, including robotics and some other types of things you don't always think of, such as sewing machines and things like that," Roberts explained.

The DigiLab is currently in progress, and the library expects more activities related to it in the fall.

"The DigiLab is an ongoing process of adding new technologies that we feel will spark student creativity and interest," Roberts noted. "Ashlyn Honor from the DEC has already held several Maker Monday events to show off robots and other tools. We hope to continue building on these resources and do more programming for students and others in the fall."

The library is open to further student ideas.

"The message that we'd like to get out is that we're open to feedback from students," said Roberts. "We really want to be open to anything they can tell us they need or would like."



# SFC Report: March 16

by Shelby Massie  
News Staff  
@shel\_byloved

**Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.**

Allocation of \$135.68

Money will be used for 212 miles of travel to Concord, North Carolina for a conference.

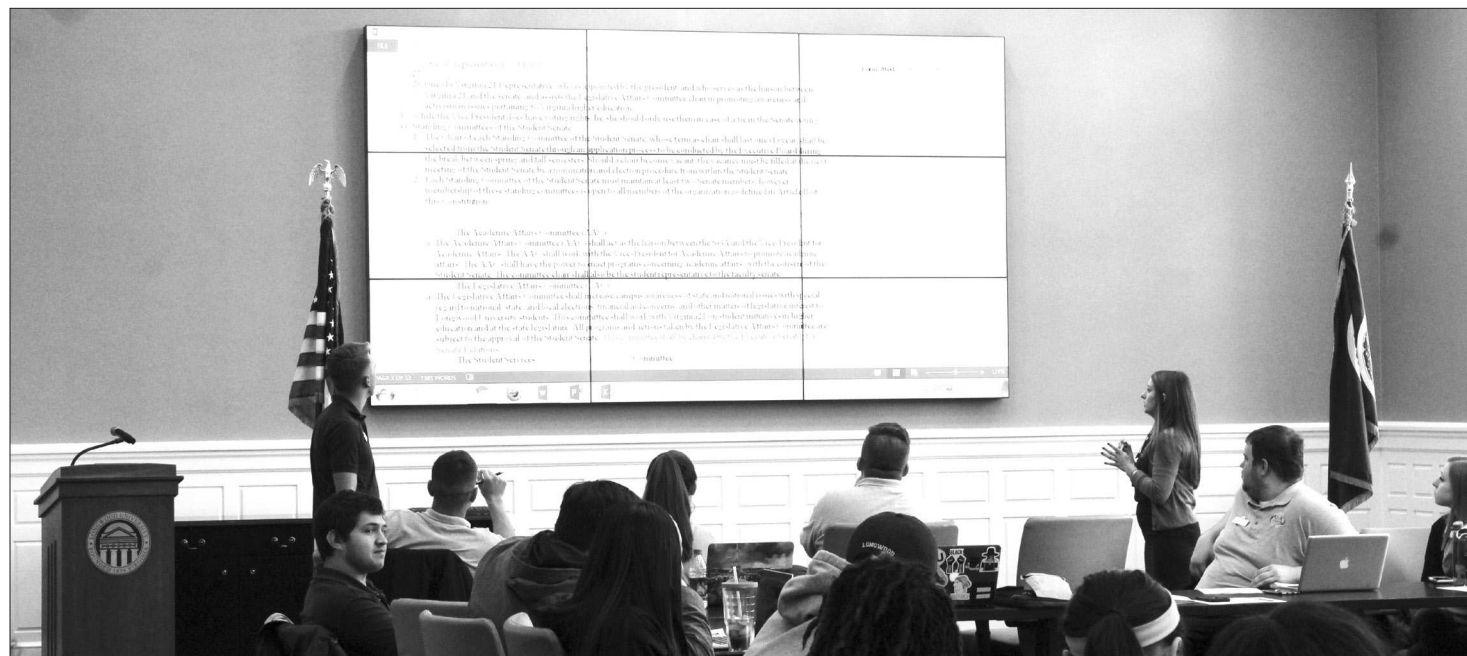
The Student Finance Committee (SFC) approved the allocation.

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## SGA Brief: March 15

### Upcoming elections discussed, two allocations and two constitutions approved

by Cassandra Maddox  
News Staff  
@longwoodrotunda



TAYLOR O'BERRY | THE ROTUNDA

**WMLU, Running Club and Politics Club attended SGA on March 14 to make requests on behalf of their organizations.**

In the March 15 Student Government Association meeting, Vice President Tristan Hobbs and Executive Senator for Committee Relations Morgan Rollins presented the revisions and specifications for the SGA constitution.

The constitution consisted of laws that were taken out or replaced, and included the amount of representatives from each diverse organization or association in the SGA being reduced to one in addition to prerequisites. For instance, senators would have fixated office hours and submit devoted minutes spent if the revised constitution was to be approved, as stated by Rollins.

Rollins also stated that a final reading of the constitution will take place during next week's meeting on March 21.

President Dillon Yonker reminded the SGA of the association's upcoming elections over positions on board and senate. There will also be a meet and greet event that will take place on March 20, along with a debate with the two presidential candidates, as stated by Yonker.

Yonker also stated that voting polls will be open on March 22, and will close on March 29. Following this will be swearing in of the elected candidates on April 10.

Seniors Christina Tagg and McKenzie Adamson, president and secretary of the Politics Club, attended the meeting in request of approval of allocation of \$799.98 to attend the Model UN Conference in North Carolina. The allocation would provide for the three-night hotel fee.

The allocation was approved by the SGA.

Treasurer Dustyn Hall spoke in place of the Student Union Advisory Board regarding the board's request of approval for the allocation of \$642.60. The re-location would come from a previous allocation to attend a baseball trip in which they were not able to attend due to the Vice-Presidential Debate.

The allocation was also approved by the SGA.

Sophomore Nicholas Hylton, president of the Longwood running club, attended the meeting in request of approval from the SGA of the club's constitution with interest from eight people to join if approved.

Hylton stated that the club will help students by providing a means to exercise. The club will meet once a week and meetings can be indoors if impending weather, as also stated by Hylton.

The constitution was approved by the SGA.


Sophomores Shannon Blunt, chief trainer, and Isabella Corgo, president of WMLU, attended the meeting in request of approval of WMLU's revised constitution. Such revisions consisted of minor word changes and positioning of the executive board and chairs, as stated by Historian Emily Moran.

The revised constitution was approved by the SGA.

Rollins spoke in place of Cheryl Steele, assistant director of student engagement, to remind freshmen and seniors to take the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) as mentioned in the Feb. 18 SGA meeting.

The next SGA meeting will be on Tuesday March 21 in the Martinelli Board Room in Maugans Alumni Center at 3:45 p.m.





# Archaeology at a 1,000 Year-Old Sappony Village

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# The journey to a university diversity statement

## Students and staff continue to build on last year's approved student diversity statement

“ We strive to foster an environment of respect and mutual understanding that moves beyond mere tolerance to the genuine valuing of diversity.

by Halle Parker  
Editor-in-Chief  
@\_thehalparker

*Longwood University Student Statement of Diversity and Inclusion*

Nearly a year ago, Longwood University's faculty senate passed a student-proposed diversity statement, the first of its kind. This semester, the statement hangs in the student union ballroom on a banner, adding a subtle accent to the room.

Students from organizations like the Black Student Association (BSA), Student Diversity and Inclusion Council (SDIC), Hispanic Latino Association, PRIDE and the Student Government Association (SGA) had collaborated and worked on the statement since 2015.

The Student Statement of Diversity and Inclusion was officially added to the student handbook for the 2016-17 school year.

Longwood alum and former BSA president Quincy Goodine '16 led its development, saying it was in response to what he considered racially related incidents on campus, specifically during the 2014-15 school year. He said students felt the university wasn't following up on their claims, although he believed it wasn't "intentional."

"It seemed that when we were going to different offices on campus, it wasn't dealt with as seriously. I'm not pointing fingers, I'm not saying mean names or anything like that. I've just heard a number of stories where student say, 'I've put in a bias incident report or I filled out these forms and it just kind of went away after a while,'" said Goodine. "You know, that can have an adverse effect on students who are dealing with things. They'll lose faith in faculty who are supposed to be here to help them."

Therefore, his group dedicated time to developing the statement to represent student beliefs regarding inclusion on Longwood's campus. But the statement was only the first step in the students' larger mission for the campus to improve how it addresses the broad topic of diversity.

Currently, the banner in the student union, hung earlier this semester, is the most public display since the statement was approved.

Moving forward, students from the same organizations as last year are continuing to build on the statement's foundation. Both current senior and BSA president Deja Mills and Goodine said the next step is "giving the statement some teeth."

Mills said, "It's not going to be a rule until there are consequences that come with it. We're working on what those consequences would look like. Like if you go before the conduct board and things like that, how would that look and how people would report those acts of biases."

Goodine added, "I mean I'm not trying to end anybody's college career or adversely affect anybody's college career, but just like there are consequences for the honor code, there should be consequences for the diversity statement."

Director for Citizen Leadership and Social Justice Jonathan Page, who helped guide the student group last year, said the University Diversity Council is also working toward creating the first official Longwood diversity statement and diversity strategic plan. He credited the students for kick-starting talks for the statement.

"That was the perfect catalyst for this larger discussion because we can say hey, students have clearly identified that there's a need. We see that there are other universities around the country that have similar statements. We need to do likewise, we need to clearly establish that this is what we need," said Page.

Page said he co-chairs the council with Dr. Naomi Johnson, a Longwood assistant professor and communication studies department chair. While the council has existed in various forms over the years, it had gone on hiatus for a period of time until this latest reiteration was organized last year in response to some student feedback.

On the student side, Mills said the Building Bridges series is one step their group is taking toward enhancing discussion of diversity and increasing campus feedback regarding the statement.

The first event was held on Feb. 16 in the auditorium of the Robert Russoe Moton Museum, organized by a student board with representatives from several organizations, including those involved in making the statement last year.

"We wanted to find out what people saw as an issue and how they thought we could fix it and just kind of get the community together, a bunch of different voices," said Mills. "It'll look different every time, it will be in different places every time, but we wanted to make sure we get people together and not keep hearing from the same voices."

Through the series, different events encourage educational engagement in different locations to foster new voices to provide perspectives on how they feel the campus looks at issues of inclusion.

Goodine said, "The thing about fostering a more diverse community is you can't have the same people showing up every week to these talks, you have to engage in these dialogues with students who aren't there normally and encourage them to come and get them to kind of expand their views."

Mills said the students are also working to revive SGA's diversity committee and researching language to help create a university statement to eventually present to Longwood's Board of Visitors.

Beyond the banner, Goodine said he hoped the university would display the statement in a "more permanent fashion," as the new buildings are constructed.

"You have the honor code in the library and you can have the diversity statement somewhere else on campus," said Goodine.

Page said they needed to work to "make it a little bit more mainstream, make it a little bit more visible," continuing to publicize it past the student handbook and banner. He believed it would create more discussion surrounding it.

"I think we need to have greater discussion about it, quite honestly, because there may be some people who would say that there's no need for it and disagree with it so I think we need to start engaging in even that discussion," he said.

While he is happy the university is taking more of an active role as the project moves forward, Goodine noted, "This started with students and it should continue with students."

As the University Diversity Council and the many student organizations continue to build on the student diversity statement, Goodine said he's glad the progress hasn't stopped with it.

"There's definitely more work to be done," he said.

Mills, picking up the baton left by Goodine, agreed and said, "I do think it's a great statement, but I do think there has to be more. That was a great step and now we have to continue to be progressive and proactive instead of reactive."

# Lancers serve others over spring break

## Students and staff travel to New Orleans and St. Louis for Alternative Breaks

by Miranda Farley  
Features Staff  
@mir4nd9



HALLE PARKER | THE ROTUNDA

Longwood has participated in Alternative Breaks for a little over a decade helping communities with food justice, environmental justice, social justice and more. For a week during spring break, two different groups travelled to New Orleans and St. Louis to serve the communities in different ways.

In New Orleans, the students focused their service on environmental justice work. They helped get rid of non-native species called cat's claw that was taking over the trees. They also worked with other non-profits that work on community issues in the area. Associate Director of Campus Recreation Gus Hemmer was the faculty adviser for the New Orleans group.

On their way to New Orleans, the group had the opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March. They participated in a reenactment of the voting rights march with civil rights leaders including Jesse Jackson.

"That (the march) was just amazing to be a part of and to see how far we have come because of those people and

their efforts and how a lot of that stuff is still important today to think about and remember," said Hemmer.

In St. Louis, the students worked with people infected and affected by AIDS. They served at a housing facility called Doorways for people affected by HIV and AIDS. Junior Emma Gratto was a student leader for the St. Louis trip.

"We helped paint their learning center which is where kids that live at the facility could go and get tutoring," said Gratto.

They also had the opportunity to play bingo with the residents one afternoon. Two other days, the group served at St. Louis Effort for AIDS. They put together condom and information packets to be distributed to people so they know where they can go for comfort and treatment.

"Both of the community partners that we worked with were very grateful for the time that we took to come help them," said Gratto.

The group that travelled to New Orleans included about 9 students and the St. Louis group included about

13 students. Assistant Director of Student Conduct and Integrity Sarah Loth and Program Coordinator for Citizen Leadership and Social Justice Education Jordan Bynum were the two faculty advisers for the St. Louis group.

Hemmer viewed Alternative Breaks as a way for students to develop as citizen leaders.

"It broadens their horizon to issues out there. It introduces them to new communities... It challenges them in their comfort zone," said Hemmer.

Gratto viewed the Alternative Break as a success from the standpoint of a student.

"I think from the standpoint of the students that we took a lot of people kind of had a change in what they thought of the AIDS epidemic that came out of the 1980s as well as the stigma that still surrounds HIV and AIDS today," said Gratto.

Financial planning for next year's Alternative Breaks has already taken place. The post service meeting is coming up soon where students will brainstorm ideas for their next destinations to serve.

# Humans of Longwood: Kristen Chesley

by David Pettyjohn  
Features Staff  
@PettyjohnDavid

Kristen Chesley is a sophomore, majoring in elementary education at Longwood, and she prides herself on being involved in Big Siblings. Big Siblings is an student organization that helps underprivileged children in the Farmville area by matching them with a mentor, or "big sibling."

"I'm not in a sorority or anything. It's the only club I'm really into," said Chesley.

Yet this club means a great deal to Chesley, and it is not hard to see why. She said she wants to be a kindergarten teacher because she loves to work with children. This is not her first foray into teaching either. In high school, Chesley

was a member of Teachers for Tomorrow, and organization that prepares students for teaching.

"I wanted to do something here, make an impact on someone," Chesley said. "I have wanted to be a teacher since I was in eighth grade."

Big Siblings has "bigs" and "littles," just like Greek organizations do. Chesley's "big" often texts her to make sure that she is coming to the Thursday meetings, and fosters a bond between the two of them. Their relationship extends beyond just Big Siblings.

Chesley feels a very strong bond to working with younger children, which is why she wants to teach kindergarten.

"There's something about (little kids) ... you're their foundation," said Chesley. She feels that her positive experiences with her own kindergarten teacher helped her a lot during her early childhood. Chesley said that she experienced a great deal of hardship at home after her father was arrested and sent to jail for drug distribution.

"She (her kindergarten teacher) did everything she could to keep my mind off of it ... I think she's what made me want to be a teacher," said Chesley. "I was born to be a teacher."



# Two comedians, one show

## Leonard Ouzts and Kristen Sivills come to perform at Longwood

by Rae Mundie  
Features Staff  
@rjmundie



Kristen Sivills' comedy opened the night in Jarman Auditorium during the Lancer Productions' event on March 16.



EVA WITTKOSKI | THE ROTUNDA

Leonard Ouzts followed Sivills' act while under the influence of marijuana, stating he was high to the crowd.

On Thursday, March 16, Lancer Productions brought in two comedians to Wygal auditorium for students' entertainment. Kristen Sivills was the opening act before introducing her friend and coworker, Leonard Ouzts to the stage.

"We met at the funny bone," said Ouzts. "She was the only person that didn't get mad when I told them the truth, been friends ever since."

The show started with Sivills talking about her life as a single mom with her daughter, explaining to the audience how hard life was after moving out from her parents' house; telling the audience about comedy, life and Ouzts.

"I did a whole bunch of stuff, was only good at this," said Sivills.

After Sivills brought Ouzts to the stage and introductions were made, he started to ask audience members for their name and major to get the crowd to participate. The interaction went from asking names to asking the students about their beliefs and thoughts about politics and marijuana.

"I'm 24 and I tell jokes, I'm not trying to push anything on

to anyone," said Ouzts.

When the jokes started with Ouzts he did admit to the crowd that he was high and proceeded to tell a few jokes about marijuana. With that, he also explained how marijuana is a plant and there have been studies to show the positive effects it has had for people.

"It was funny at some points but at some points it was too much," said senior Matthew Finn, Exercise Science Major. "I think the opening was better."

Ouzts started his comedic career while attending Virginia State University, where he would walk around campus practicing his jokes. He said that it began with his performance in the talent show that he did for one of the fraternities on campus. After not completing the spring semester of his freshman year, Ouzts didn't go back to school, deciding that he wanted to do something else with his life.

"He didn't ask for much for his performance, 'just a mic and a stage,'" said sophomore, Coleby Burford, Elementary Education Major.

Lancer Productions usually goes to the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA), to find the speakers that come for student entertainment nights. Other times agencies are searched online to find comedians, poets, and other speakers.

Ouzts has performed at close to 20 other universities, telling students about the world and how it can be. With Longwood's campus and student body, it seemed to leave an impression on both comedians, with Ouzts saying how parts of it reminded him of home but also didn't.

"So far, my favorite show has been University of South Florida, because it was winter time and the weather was warm," said Ouzts. "The students were smart and came to actually listen to jokes."

The show ended with Ouzts knowing everyone's name and major in the audience. People stood up to shake his hand and also to take pictures with both comedians. Ouzts said that he had fun, loved the energy of the crowd and thought the students were really smart.

# CREATIVE CORNER

## Beauty and the Beast Review A tale as old as time

by Jacob DiLandro  
A&E Staff  
@spongejay1

When Disney remade “Cinderella,” most bets were on it flopping. However, the movie ended up being charming and beautifully done, giving more backstory and character development to a film that, albeit is a classic, was desperately needing one.

Now, Disney and the director of “Chicago” and “Dreamgirls” have a live action “Beauty and the Beast” film. But, it begs to be asked if they will have the same success with a remake of a more recent film (The original is 26 years old). Or is this new remake simply a beast?

Thankfully, Bill Condon’s background dealing with Broadway musicals served him well here. Each song pops and flows brilliantly and while no one, not even Belle, is exceptional in their vocal range, no one is bad either. The whole cast sings and performs well, with praise particularly going to Ian McKellen and Emma Thompson as Cogsworth and Mrs. Potts, respectively.

Kevin Kline is wonderful as Belle’s father, Maurice. Luke Evans has a devilish and cartoony charm to him as the ever evil Gaston and Josh Gad is also excellent as LeFou, Gaston’s faithful companion. The legend Alan Menken also returns to write the score and even contributed four new

songs to the film.

Even the Beast is animated and performed well, with Dan Stevens bringing an angry kind of charm to the character. Screenwriter Stephen Chbosky of “The Perks of Being a Wallflower” fame adds a thick layer of charm to every character in the film, and it never feels grating. The film, as a whole, is just exceptionally charming.

Unfortunately, while it is also gorgeous and detailed in its visuals, it doesn’t feel as colorful as its animated counterpart, or even 2015’s “Cinderella.” The visuals are not bad; “Be Our Guest” is as flamboyant and show stopping as it has ever been. It’s just that the rest of the film doesn’t pop off the screen in the same way. The castle is well detailed and designed, but it does feel empty and lifeless.

Overall, while the film is a tad bit too long and the singing is good but not great. The new tale as old as time is still a remarkable movie. It channels the Disney classic without imitating it too much. Will it stand up to that classic? Only time will tell, but at the end of the day, this is just a simple story told wonderfully of a beauty and her beast.

★★★★ 4/5

## Kong: Skull Island Review Monkey see, Monkey kill

by Jacob DiLandro  
A&E Staff  
@spongejay1

In 2014, Warner Bros. rebooted the Godzilla franchise with a well-made monster movie that spawned what they now call the “MonsterVerse.” Yes, it’s a cinematic universe for monster movies, which means eventually we will get to see Godzilla and King Kong fight. But first, we have to be introduced to this new Kong and what an introduction that will be.

“Kong: Skull Island” is directed by Jordan Vogt-Roberts. If you’re unfamiliar with him, his only previous film credits are a Nick Offerman stand up special and the indie film “The Kings of Summer.” He makes a great Kong movie though, with explosive action scenes and an interesting concept to back it up.

This is not the Kong of Peter Jackson or the original film. The year is 1973 and Kong is keeping watch over Skull Island, where monsters lurk below the surface. The introduction of Kong in the film gets right to the point, even interrupting a song playing on a helicopter’s radio with a tree thrown directly at them.

“Skull Island” nails the cinematic and stylistic aspects of the film. Imagine the Vietnam era visual style of “Apocalypse Now” but with a giant monkey in it. The camera regularly gets in gorgeous shots of the island and action, with color and fire

used with delightful precision.

There are so many great shots in the movie; of helicopters, of a Nixon bobble-head, of Kong obliterating other monsters, that make this a movie that fully takes advantage of the big screen it’s on. Unfortunately, there is one aspect of the movie that isn’t as well done and that’s the characters.

While the story itself is solid, most of the characters aren’t used. Samuel L. Jackson and John C. Reilly turn in the best performances, but Tom Hiddleston and Alison Brie feel like they’re just doing the best with what they have. Some of the side characters are more interesting, like Jing Tiag’s biologist San and Corey Hawkins’ Yale graduate Houston. But, John Goodman is forgettable and most of the soldier characters are given a handful of good lines and that’s it.

“Kong” is not a bad film. It’s visually and stylistically great with a solid story overall, but the human characters that we spend so much time with feel wasted, apart from a few. The music does a great job of capturing the action and the era and the final battle is truly something that should be seen on the big screen. This is a classic example of style over substance, although, it is some damn good style.

★★★★ 3.5/5



# Future returns with double album "Future/Hndrxx"

## A solid effort sure to recapture his star

by Richie Kamtchoum  
A&E Assistant Editor  
@RichiePBM

At it's peak, trap music, a sub-genre of hip-hop, has ascended alongside the most popular genre's of music in the U.S. With multiple songs dominating the Billboard Hot 100 and several of the famous namesakes selling hundreds of thousands of album copies, the growth has been inescapable compared to the fringe mixtape beginnings of years past.

At the top of the helm is Nayvadius Wilburn, better known as Future, a superstar hit-maker with a variety of styles. After 2015, when Future dropped two platinum albums in a span of months with "DS2" and "What a Time To Be Alive" along with Drake, his star seemed to hit a crescendo.

His lackluster 2016 releases appeared to affirm that notion, as his commercial mixtapes "Purple Reign" and "EVOL" under-performed and oversaturated his sound.

The rapper found himself at odds after a down year and the rise of a young cohort of Atlanta rappers, namely Lil Yachty, 21 Savage, Migos and Young Thug.

With other artists along, the country capitalizing on a wave he helped popularize, Future responded with what is in essence a double album in "Future" and "Hndrxx."

The two albums are not officially listed as a double album, but the fact that they were released within a week of each other with a contrasting duality makes the effort fairly obvious. Judging the bodies of work as one project is a lot easier and actually rates them better.

For one, the contrast in styles is perfected on the two efforts. On "Future", the rapper brilliantly aims at his adversaries over nimble yet distinct production, talking brashly along the way. It's produced, what seems to be, future hits, no pun intended, in "Mask Off" and "Draco."

Future is as fun as he is dark on the self-titled work and fans of his early, more aggressive work should be thrilled at his delivery on the album.

On the flip side, "Hndrxx" is Future's "Take Care," a brutally honest project bearing the artist's flaws, successes, highlights and lowlights on display for the world. He touches on recent media outtakes, like his divorce and resulting fallout with Ciara and his affair with Scottie Pippen's wife, Larsa Pippen. The album shows Future's acceptance of his celebrity with a bit of remorse for his actions, delivered with passionate melodies and verses.

Overall, the two albums are the best releases he's put out since "DS2," with "Hndrxx" potentially being his best work ever. With his back against the wall, Future bounced back admirably.



## Student Specials!

- SVM1: Large 1-Topping
- SVM2: Medium cheese & 16 Parm Bites
- SVM3: Extra-Large Cheese

**All \$7.99 for carryout or Delivery!**

**We also have several group/party order specials and always our 7.99 large carryout and 5.99 mix and match deal!**

# COLUMN: The rent is too damn high

by Jesse Plichta-Kellar  
News Staff  
@JesseKellar

Guess how much a Lancer living in university managed housing pays on average for room and board per month for 2016-17?

\$1,188.87.

I derived the total by averaging the costs of available meal plans and housing options, then adding them together. However, I would like to note that I didn't research statistics to weight the numbers, but I think that my number is a pretty good snapshot.

For a more conservative estimate, the proportion of Lancers living in dorms which is slightly cheaper even after the obligatory, more expensive meal plan options, may drive the average lower. I will use an approximated \$1,100 per month as the average. In theory, that's about \$36.66 per day for room and food.

Longwood residence halls don't provide a \$1,100 per month living experience.

I have nothing against my roommate nor against my suite-mates, who are also lovely people. It's just that the average rent for two beds in Farmville is \$678. Much of the cost of living is by household and not person, so let's do some math.

Internet and cable will at most be \$50 a month, and we'll assume that groceries per person per month are about \$200 between two people. Add in some dining out (let's say \$30 per week per person), and we're up to \$928.

Let's call, utilities at \$72 so we're up to \$1,000. Gas in Farmville is about \$2 a gallon, and Farmville is 8.2 square miles. Let's make the assumption of vehicle ownership and say the car is kind of a clunker and needs about \$30 of maintenance a month and it only gets 20 mpg, but you'll likely only be traveling about two miles a day to Longwood, so transportation costs relating exclusively to Longwood are going to be about \$4 a month in gas and \$30 in maintenance. Doubling \$34 is \$68, so that brings our cost per month up to about \$1,068. Obviously there are other costs of living (like additional groceries or non-Longwood transport), but we're only talking about things that you pay for through RCL.

Okay, so that's about \$1,000, not much less than the "\$1,100 a month living experience," but for three things:

1. It's still cheaper by \$100-\$200 a month.
2. It's a higher quality of living. We're talking about an apartment or small house here.
3. That approximate \$1,000 is for two people.

So really, it's about \$534 a month if you have a roomie. That doesn't include the stuff you already pay for while living on campus, so your cost of living will be \$500 plus whatever else, but on campus it's \$1,100 plus whatever else.

Okay, but why?

It's not like school has a mortgage on Wheeler or South Ruffner (built in 1960 and 1900 respectively) and the expenses are in bulk, which is usually cheaper than on a smaller scale.

The school's answer is essentially that the inclusion of auxiliary services and maintenance is what drives up the cost.

According to Jean Wilwohl, associate director of occupancy management, the rent is calculated each year by the budget office with a variety of factors in mind.

"How it works, I'll send the budget office how many students and how many beds we have, and send it the budget office. They calculate the rates for the year to be able to meet our bills for utilities, heat, electricity, water, all those types of things," Wilwohl explained.

The board of visitors and budget office ultimately make the decisions on the budget.

"So ultimately, the Office of Residential and Commuter Life isn't necessarily involved in determining what the rate will be. That's where the university's budget office are really the ones who determine the rates based on paying for utilities, water, internet, cable that will be in those rooms, any upkeep and things like that," said Wilwohl.

According to Wilwohl, the university doesn't aim to make a profit.

"Typically each year, you see about a three percent increase from one year to the next. And that's just because of utility rates," Wilwohl noted. "That's not that much. We're not trying to make a profit, but we have to make sure we have enough money, not just for the utilities but for any upkeep. If there's any painting that needs to be done and to make sure there's enough furniture, we don't want to have the same furniture forever, we need to have money for that."

According to Wilwohl, the fact that the rooms are all-inclusive and have on-site staff drives up the cost.

"Our apartments are fully furnished, we have cable, internet in place. We also have staff for emergency situations. There is always someone available to assist a student, 24/7, where if you're living in an apartment community that's not necessarily going to be the case," she said.

Despite that, the university usually makes a profit from housing, but the amount varies drastically year-to-year. For example in the 2016-17 budget, the estimated surplus is zero, but for 2014-15 it was \$581,391, according to the Operating Budgets and Plans, available for the fiscal years from 2006-07 on Longwood University's website.

This was confirmed by Susan Osborne, Longwood University's budget director.

"Housing and dining normally do make a profit or at least break even. There are no state funds used for housing and

dining or other auxiliary services," said Osborne.

The funds, however, are kept separate for housing related purposes.

"The funds for these activities are kept in separate funds and any profit is used to fund future expenses. For example to build a new dining hall or pay for remodeling," she said. "In the case of housing the reserves are normally used to fund new debt related to remodeling or building additional housing. The reserves can also be used for unexpected expenses, for example, replacing a chiller that quits working before its normal life."

Ken Copeland, vice president of administration of finance, pointed out that the budget and how finances actually work out are not necessarily the same thing.

"Sometimes the actual financial performance mirrors the budgets – sometimes our enrollment of housed students is smaller than anticipated so the actual revenue is less than what's budgeted," said. "Often when we budget a small surplus it's due to a planned maintenance project – and likewise if there is a surplus budgeted it often means that we don't have plans for big maintenance projects."

Copeland also noted that "budgeted surplus" is not the same as "profit."

"Please also understand that the term 'budgeted surplus' is more appropriate than 'profit' – which infers that the university spends those funds elsewhere. All auxiliary buildings have to be maintained by the University with no financial assistance from the Commonwealth of Virginia," said Copeland. "Costs each year escalate – most notably utilities and labor costs. We try to plan for these escalations and often the cost escalations occur."

The university can only make an educated guess at what auxiliary costs will be, and sometimes the reality is lower or higher than expected. Costs go up with the general assumption that labor and other costs will go up.

So that's why the rent is so damn high.

With that information in mind, I still don't think that the cost for room and board is justified. There's no truly detailed reports available, and despite the uncertainty regarding how the budget will work out, the rate goes up at a, more or less, consistent rate. It's already almost double what a comparable situation in Farmville would be.

The other part of this that doesn't sit well with me is the lack of transparency and effort to communicate the how and why of the cost of housing. The budgets don't accurately reflect what surpluses will be, and trying to find answers will get you shuffled from department to department. I'm not the only one who thinks the rent is too much, and I think the student body as a whole would appreciate greater transparency regarding the matter.



# The Beauty Community: Celebrating 29 years of Penelope's Boutique



High-end accessories, clothing and jewelry filled Penelope's Boutiques, one of the few clothing stores in downtown Farmville.

PAULINA MARINERO | THE ROTUNDA

by Paulina A. Marinero  
Opinions Staff  
@MarineroPaulina

Right in the heart of Farmville lies one of nine Penelope's Boutiques, a small jeweler and clothes store chain unique to Virginia. It's located along main street near Uptown Café, available anytime you're down to shop after some nice, hot coffee.

Penelope's manager Amy Welch said, "We specialize in gifts pretty much for whoever you need to shop for. If we don't have what you're looking for, we can get it for you as well."

Penelope's Boutique was founded in 1988 by Penelope Searcy in Lynchburg, Va. Now, it's run as a family business. Farmville just celebrated their 29th year of having Penelope's Boutique a part of their town.

Walking into Penelope's, I was blown away by the amount of accessories they had. They had multiple racks filled up to make it a girl's shopping paradise with necklaces, scarves and wallets! The whole store was organized by color scheme, which made it that more aesthetically pleasing to the eye.

All along the walls were hangers and shelves filled with casual and sports clothing. The center of the store had a footwear display, which carried TOMs, and a clearance rack - smart shopping never hurt anyone.

Display windows of their expensive jewelry collections sat in near the back of the store. If you've ever walked into Kay Jewelers, you'll know the feel of how Penelope's Boutique is.

Welch said, "Ever since we added jeweler brands like Pandora and Alex & Ani, we've been receiving more Longwood students. Most students usually stop at boutiques closer to Madison street, but we've got a lot here too."

Although I was walking around the store, mesmerized at all the merchandise, it's definitely not cheap. This could be a potential business disadvantage when it comes to store options in the town of Farmville for college students. Let me put this into perspective. I walked toward the apparel

clearance rack where the sign read, "50% off," which is usually a good sign. However, some glances at the tags revealed that most of the items stated, "WAS \$60.99, NOW \$30.99." According to my wallet, that's not really a sale or clearance item.

Welch said as a first-time customer, you'll be asked for your name and email to start a clientele profile and receive weekly emails on hot deals and new products coming in. Hopefully these "hot deals" come sooner as we approach spring because, as much as that store may hurt my wallet, I can't resist. As we near graduation, Penelope's Boutique would be the perfect place to shop for gifts.

Penelope's Boutique is opened from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday through Saturday, then is closed on Sundays. Go check it out and tell Amy *The Rotunda* sent you!

# Baseball slides into conference play with their first win

## Longwood defeats Charleston Southern in Big South home series

by Steph Roberts  
Sports Staff  
@stephroberts07

Longwood baseball entered conference play this past weekend with a three-game series against Charleston Southern. The Lancers finished 2-1 in the series, winning the first two games and losing the last.

Longwood beat Charleston Southern 7-2 at their home field on Friday, March 17. With help from senior right-hander Devin Gould, the Lancers held CSU to two runs in over seven innings. Charleston Southern entered the series with the second-best batting average in the Big South, and Gould shut them out over the first seven innings.

The Lancers also tied their season high of 14 hits, with junior center fielder Sammy Miller going 4-for-5 tying his career high of four hits. Miller also had two runs, two RBI, three stolen bases and a double. The Lancers finished the day with every starter getting a hit and three players had two or more hits.

“Winning the series was good, but we have to be able to put teams away when the opportunity presents itself,” said head coach Ryan Mau on the official Longwood Lancers website. “If we expect to be toward the top of the league, we must learn to complete the weekend.”

Longwood took the second game of the series on Saturday, March 18 with a 1-0 victory. Senior right-hander Cody Wager led the Lancers to a shutout, and came within four outs of recording

the first Longwood no hitter since 1999. Wagner had 10 strikeouts and didn’t allow any hits in his first 7.2 innings. Senior pitcher Michael Catlin finished the ninth inning with two outs to win the game.

Sophomore catcher Carlos Garrido hit the game winner in the sixth inning, sending senior third base-man Alex Lewis home. Charleston Southern’s pitchers had a strong game as well holding the Lancers to only one run and five hits, striking out 12 Longwood batters.

Longwood fell short in the last game of the series on Sunday, March 19 losing to CSU by 7-8. The Lancers still won the series for their first conference win.

The Lancers were in the lead until the ninth inning when Charleston Southern scored a run to tie it up. Longwood then went on to score three runs in the tenth inning, but couldn’t match Charleston Southern four runs in the top of the tenth.

“We had a few opportunities to get on the board, but we couldn’t get the big hit we needed,” said Mau on the Longwood athletics official website.

Longwood plays next Tuesday, March 21 away at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. The first pitch is at 6:30 p.m.

## WEEKLY ROUNDUP

### BASEBALL

*Sunday, March 19*  
*vs. Charleston Southern L 8-7*

### SOFTBALL

*Sunday, March 19*  
*@ Campbell L 9-2*

### LACROSSE

*Sunday, March 19*  
*@ St. Francis L 13-12*

### MEN’S TENNIS

*Sunday, March 19*  
*vs. Morgan State W 4-0*

### WOMEN’S TENNIS

*Sunday, March 19*  
*vs. Morgan State L 4-3*

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## Club sports weekend roundup

### RESULTS

#### Field Hockey Club

*Saturday, March 18*

Longwood club field hockey defeated Mary Washington 6-0 in Lancer Park.

#### Women’s Lacrosse Club

*Sunday, March 19*

Club women’s lacrosse fell to Mary Washinton 14-3 in their first match, then Christopher Newport 14-8 in their second of the day.

#### Men’s Soccer Club

*Sunday, March 19*

Longwood lost to Radford in a tight 1-0 game.

### UPCOMING MATCHES

#### Women’s Rugby Club,

*Saturday, March 25*

11 a.m. @First Avenue Field

#### Women’s Softball Club,

*Saturday, March 25*

10 a.m. @Lancer Park

*For more information regarding Longwood’s club sports, visit their website here.*



# Remembering Jeremy Bennett

by Kiersten Freedman  
Social Media Editor  
@kfreedman44



SHANNON LINDEMANN | THE ROTUNDA

Senior Jeremy Bennett was remembered by some of his friends and professors for his “contagious laugh.” The cause of Bennett’s death hasn’t been disclosed by the family, who requested privacy.

Senior Jeremy Bennett passed away the weekend of March 4 in Northern Virginia. The autopsy of Bennett will be finalized on April 4.

*The Rotunda* reached out to Bennett’s family, but they requested privacy at this time.

A candlelight vigil will occur on March 29 at 7 p.m. in front of Ruffner Hall or inside of Ruffner in case of inclement weather.

On March 25, Bennett’s family will be celebrating Bennett’s life in Fairfax, Va. at St. George’s United Methodist Church, located at 4910 Ox Rd. The visitation starts at 10 a.m. and the funeral will follow at 12:30 p.m., as per an email sent by Dr. Tim Pierson, vice president for student affairs, on March 16.

Bennett will be remembered fondly by his peers at Longwood University, as expressed by senior Dylan Van Balen, a friend of Bennett’s.

“Everyone immediately knew when he was in a room, and he always made people smile because he had such a contagious laugh,” said Van Balen.

When asked notable characteristics about Bennett, his laugh was a main topic of discussion.

“You could hear it a mile away,” laughed girlfriend Shannon Lindemann ’15. “It was just infectious.”

Dr. Melanie Marks, adviser to Bennett, could not hold back her laughter as she said, “The thing I will miss the most about Jeremy, by far, will be that laugh.”

“He was high on life and super laid back; he always had a positive attitude,” continued Marks.

Five classes and a study abroad trip later, Marks noted Bennett as a favorite student of hers. His intellectual curiosity allowed them to converse over any subject, whether it was economics related or otherwise.

“He (Bennett) would ask something out of the blue, completely tangential, and you don’t care because it was such

an interesting question, that you would just allow the class to go down this path with him, because that’s the way his brain works,” said Marks.

Senior political science major and close friend to Bennett, Ian Douglas was enthralled at Bennett’s ability to light up a room and entertain every single person, talking about any topic, “economics and fiscal policy were amongst his personal favorites.”

“He was always the first to find humor in any situation, and when there was no humor in any situation, he upheld the banner of optimism for the future,” said Douglas.

After a study abroad trip to Costa Rica, Marks guessed that Bennett had caught the “travel bug.” She said, “He wanted to go to Thailand (another trip led by Marks) so badly...He always asked me if anyone had dropped out so he could go.”

Lindemann concluded that his heart was set on offshore accounting and Marks agreed that the trip to Costa Rica led to his interest in international business.

“His ability to talk to anyone about any topic would have made him an asset in the international business world,” said Marks, “He had a special ability to connect with people. He was so sincere.”

Christie Baer ’16 felt the connection as Bennett’s roommate. She said, “He always emphasized how friends become your family, (so) my favorite memories of him are of Sunday family breakfast.”

Baer would make breakfast for their ‘family’ every Sunday and all their friends would come over. The only person she would let in the kitchen to help was Bennett, “He and I were always in the kitchen trying a new recipe and listening to music.”

Baer concluded, “He was more than a roommate, he was family ... (and) living with Bennett was one of my favorite things about Longwood.”

Continue to follow *The Rotunda* for updates.