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*Christine Rindfleisch*

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Take me to the candy shop

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*Jesse Plichta-Kellar*

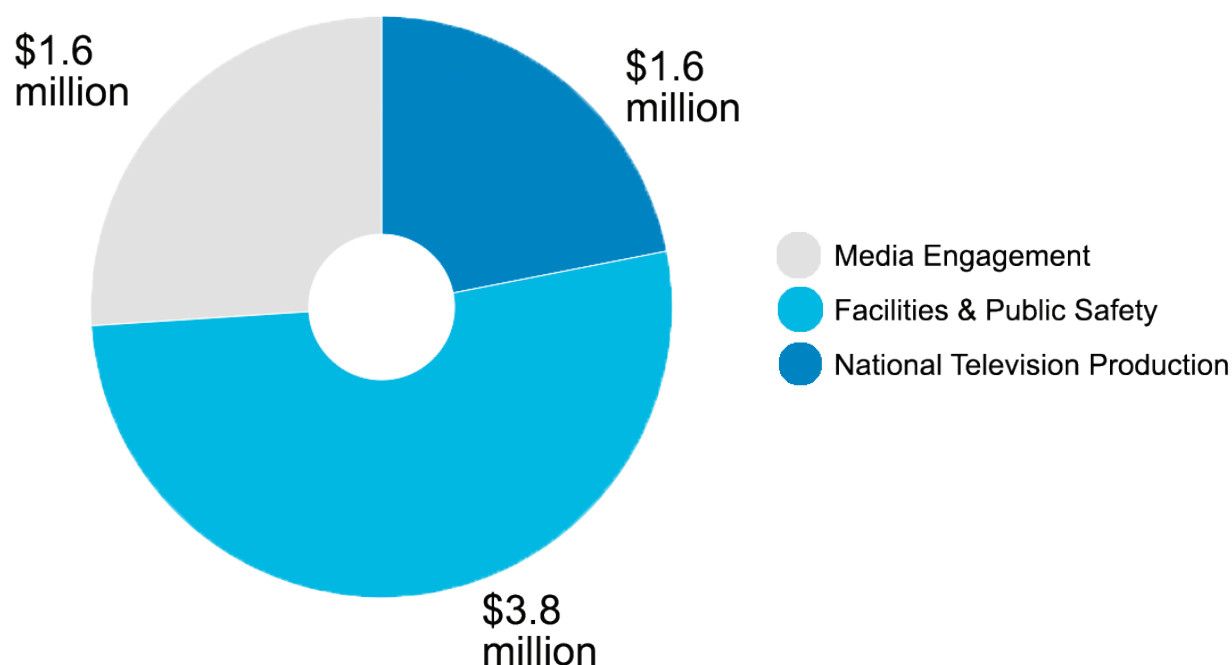
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Austin asked us to tease him

*Austin Berry & Cassie Tagert*

## VP Debate cost university \$6.3 million

Media exposure gained valued at \$83.3 million from hosting



GRAPHIC BY HALLE PARKER

by Halle Parker  
Editor-in-Chief  
@\_thehalparker

Longwood University spent approximately \$7.3 million on hosting the 2016 vice presidential debate on Oct. 4, expecting \$1 million in reimbursements and sponsorships to lower the final cost to \$6.3 million.

According to Copeland, all funds were taken from Longwood's reserves and will be paid over the next two fiscal years, which are typically used for capital projects.

Through the debate, the university reported it received an

estimated \$83.3 million worth of media exposure, according to the report presented by Vice President of Administration and Finance Ken Copeland at the Dec. 2 board of visitors meeting.

— "DEBATE," CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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# The Library, LU Art Dept. and LCVA bringing award to art students

by Jesse Plichta-Kellar  
News Staff  
@longwoodrotunda

Greenwood Library along with Longwood University's art department and the Longwood Visual Arts Center (LCVA) are collaborating to debut a new award for junior and senior art students.

According to Brent Roberts, dean of the library, the award will be named in honor of the library.

"At this point, we are just calling them the Greenwood Library Student Art Award," Roberts said. "This is the first time we've ever done it."

The awards will be presented by the library at the LCVA's annual exhibition of student art on April 29, according to Rachel Ivers, executive director of the LCVA.

"(The presentation event) it follows the community achievement arts awards," Ivers said. "They're (the art students) are getting ready now. They have to install their own work. It's a requirement of their degree."

The show for juniors opens on April 19 in Bedford Hall, according to Roberts. The show for seniors opens on Saturday, April 8.

According to Roberts, there are three different awards for both the senior and junior categories.

"There are multiple awards. We are giving out three awards in both the junior and the senior student art shows," Roberts said. "One is to be selected by our student library advisory committee, and one by our faculty library advisory committee, which is a committee of the faculty senate. The third one will be selected by our library staff."

Winners will receive recognition and a cash award. "The students will each get a fabulous certificate ... There will also be a cash prize of \$200," Roberts said. "And then, in addition to both of those they will also have their art installed and on exhibit in Greenwood Library for one year ... This is part of the library's commitment to showcasing student

work."

According to Roberts and Ivers, the idea originated from the library and the art department who then reached out to LCVA.

"They had this great idea ... And I said why don't you bring it here, we're already announcing the senior acquisition," said Ivers..

The senior acquisition is a piece of art created by a graduating Longwood University senior and purchased by the LCVA, according to Ivers.

"Every year we purchase a piece from the senior show," Ivers said. "It's our way of connecting the art department, the art majors at Longwood, who are very talented with our community at large."

The student art exhibition has the largest attendance of any LCVA event. The exhibit features art exclusively from Longwood art students, but is open to the public to visit.

"It's our largest attended exhibition of the year. Last year we had 636 people, which is a lot," said Ivers.

According to Ivers, art minors are also allowed to participate in addition to art majors.

"I hope it will encourage more people minoring in art to get their work out there," said Ivers.

This award has hopes of connecting the Farmville community with the Longwood community, according to Ivers.

"We are going to introduce them to the community, and their work will be on view while this event is going on as well," Ivers said. "We're hoping to get across to our art majors that they have support in this community, that there are people who love the arts and are willing to advocate for it."

"We want students to know that the library isn't just for research. It's about student creativity," said Roberts.

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The Longwood University Police Department was shortstaffed in eight positions, including five officers and three dispatchers. Police Chief Colonel Bob Beach said the department is in the process of replacing them while accommodating their current staff with overtime pay.

GRAPHIC BY AUSTIN BERRY

## LUPD recovering from five officers and three communication shortfall

by Christine Rindfleisch  
News Editor  
@longwoodrotunda

Longwood University Police Department (LUPD) is in the process of filling five police officer positions and three communication positions since before the vice presidential debate on Oct. 4.

"That's a significant shortfall, but our organization is as such talented and the commitment of our staff is that everyone picks it up," said Col. Bob Beach, chief of LUPD.

In order to accommodate for the overtime by the remaining officers, the overtime budget is considered to be over budget.

"That's the nature of what you do 24 hours a day seven days a week. You take responsibility when you have shortness of staff you have to make it up someplace. We will make it up, but obviously, we have salary savings from the vacancies positions that will be able to cover the shortage in the budget but we are on our way to recover that," said Beach.

Two students have recently completed the sixth-month academy process and are now in the midst of their 13-week training process. Both students will join LUPD after completion, which is expected to be in three to four weeks, according to Beach.

"That (the two additions) will put two of those five spots back on the street," said Beach.

"It is not uncommon for officers from local sheriff

departments to work for LUPD as needed. Currently qualified police officers are in demand, and it is a competitive market for their services," said Dr. Tim Pierson, vice president of student affairs.

In addition, two more students are expected to graduate from the academy in June 2017 that will begin their 13-week residential after that to work towards filling those positions, according to Beach.

"That'll help us, but then we just had an officer who is going to resign and go work for another department and that'll drop us (LUPD) back one then that would leave us with two vacancies, and we plan on filling those vacancies and putting those people if they need to go to the academy in July," said Beach.

There have been two offers made to fill the communication positions.

"We (LUPD) have to finish the background investigation before we can make that final, but that's in process as we speak," said Beach.

"LUPD thoroughly screens applicants to ensure that we are only hiring qualified individuals who will be a good fit for the Longwood community," said Pierson.

The response time has remained steady throughout the shortfall with an average of three minutes, according to

Beach.

"We (LUPD) have not missed any events ... so on average for 17-18,000 calls a year I'm happy with that," said Beach.

"While we are not currently at full-staff in LUPD rest assured that all shifts are fully covered by qualified officers," said Pierson.

The cause of the shortfall is believed to be other job opportunities, according to Beach.

"People move on for a number of different reasons most of our losses are not due to salary or benefits it's either spouses move or new jobs or things like that," said Beach.

When asked if campus has been notified of this situation Beach responded: "We (LUPD) have been very open about our shortfall and officer vacancies, anytime anybody asked we have been very open about it," said Beach.

"It's not that the information is not there it's that people are just not receiving it ... campus should have known it (about shortfall) we have been very open about it I'm not certain who would have said that," said Beach.

Beach added that students could bring their concerns and learn about issues around campus at Coffee with the Chief that is held every month.

# Dr. Melissa Rhoten named program director for core curriculum

by Shelby Massie  
Asst. News Editor  
@shel\_byloved

As the 2018-19 new undergraduate academic core curriculum is developing since approval in the Nov. 3 Faculty Senate meeting, Dr. Melissa Rhoten, professor of analytical chemistry, was appointed to program director of the new core curriculum on March 15. Rhoten also served on the Academic Core Curriculum Committee.

The new core curriculum will affect incoming freshman in 2018.

According to Dr. Joan Neff, provost and vice president for academic affairs, Rhoten was chosen through nominations that were given to her (Neff) by the Academic Chairs Council.

"The selection process did not require that I consult with the Academic Chairs Council, but I value their input and decided to ask them for nominations," said Neff.

Rhoten has been the head of her department for 10 years in addition to serving for three years as a member of Academic Core Curriculum committee is currently on the Core Curriculum Transition committee.

"I feel like I have relevant experience sort of administrative type experience to try and manage this big project," said Rhoten.

"The committee spent many hours working together to generate ideas and then met repeatedly with their colleagues

throughout the university to incorporate their input," said Neff. "It was an iterative and painstaking process which resulted in a final design that reflects the core mission of Longwood to promote the development of citizen leaders."

According to Neff, Rhoten will be responsible for things such as working with deans and department chairs to make sure that faculty is diverse and engaged in teaching the core curriculum courses.

She will work with the Registrar's office and department chairs to coordinate the scheduling of the Core Curriculum courses and pre-registration of students when it is called for. These responsibilities are just two of several that Rhoten will face in the coming years, said Neff.

Rhoten said she wants students to embrace the new core curriculum and not see it as obligation to move through the current general education program but rather see the connectivity amongst the newly-approved curriculum.

"I want to see, in terms of students, I want to see them sort of embrace the idea of the core curriculum more and not see it as some hurdle that they have to just get their gen-eds (general education courses) out of the way," said Rhoten.

Rhoten disclosed the program serving the core curriculum has plans of adding three more members to the New Core

Curriculum Committee. These individuals will act as coordinators, and there will be an additional nine members of the faculty that will also serve on the committee, according to Rhoten.

They, along with Rhoten, will be in charge of helping other faculty members to develop courses and making sure that courses are appropriately distributed.

"We are also responsible for assessment and making sure that we are really doing what we say we're doing. So, I kind of have to oversee all of that process," shared Rhoten.

Rhoten didn't disclose the names of those individuals but ensured that they would be released in the near future.

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"Some courses may be completely new, and others may be revised versions of existing courses," said Neff.

Rhoten will keep her position as a professor of chemistry while also being the director, according to Neff.

Continue to follow *The Rotunda* for more updates.

# SPEAK UP!

**When:** 12 p.m. - 1 p.m., Wednesday, April 19

**Where:** Inside D-hall or in front of Chi Fountain

**What:** Tell *The Rotunda* your thoughts on national and campus news, get information from other student organizations and learn about joining the staff, all while jamming to music from WMLU.

**Contact:** therotundaonline@gmail.com



— “DEBATE,” CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

“Our name is historic in a lot of ways and for a lot of reasons, but where presidential politics are concerned, Longwood’s got a cool little niche carved out in history. This is the Longwood debate,” said Copeland.

In an interview with Copeland and President W. Taylor Reveley on Oct. 14, Copeland said the budget was originally \$5.7 million, after subtracting the \$1 million in projected sponsorships and reimbursements. Ultimately, the costs of the debate exceeded the university’s budget by approximately \$600,000.

“Part of what makes it a several million dollar endeavor to make it happen is that there’s no entity that’s purely in control. There’s the commission, there’s us, there’s the secret service, and they’re all jockeying and all have needs at the end,” said Reveley.

for other universities’ political campaign events, including the University of Chicago and the University of Pennsylvania.

Copeland said the company was expected to receive a portion of the \$3.5 million facilities budget as well as “a couple hundred thousand” of the media engagement budget. Freeman provided furnishings, carpeting and staging for the media

“To actually put a dollar amount on the people (volunteering). It would be a monumental effort in itself.”

*Ken Copeland*

The money was spread across three areas of expenditures: media engagement, national television production and facilities and public safety, according to Copeland.

The majority of the money went toward facilities and public safety, as the university was required to construct the debate hall and furnish the media filing center. According to the budget presented on Oct. 14, the university budgeted \$3.5 million toward facilities and public safety. The final cost exceeded its budgeted mark by \$300,000.

“We really wanted to take this opportunity and make that most of it that we could,” said Reveley.

According to Copeland, Longwood saved an unquantifiable expense thanks to volunteering from public safety officials across the state, though the university still paid for the hours of the Longwood University Police Department and Farmville Police Department, as well as pay for the volunteers’ lodging and food.

“It would be at best a difficult thing to quantify is all the actual hours not only for our employed staff, but for folks like yourself who volunteered. There’s a monetary value that you certainly could have assigned to all of those hours,” said Copeland. “To actually put a dollar amount on the people ... it would be a monumental effort on itself.”

The school also had to rent the security fencing surrounding the vice presidential zone requiring credentials to enter.

Regarding facilities, Copeland said Longwood hired Freeman Company after sending out a request for proposal on May 16, 2016. Freeman was the lowest bidder of 7-10 respondents, and had worked on the 2016 Democratic National Convention. They also had experience working

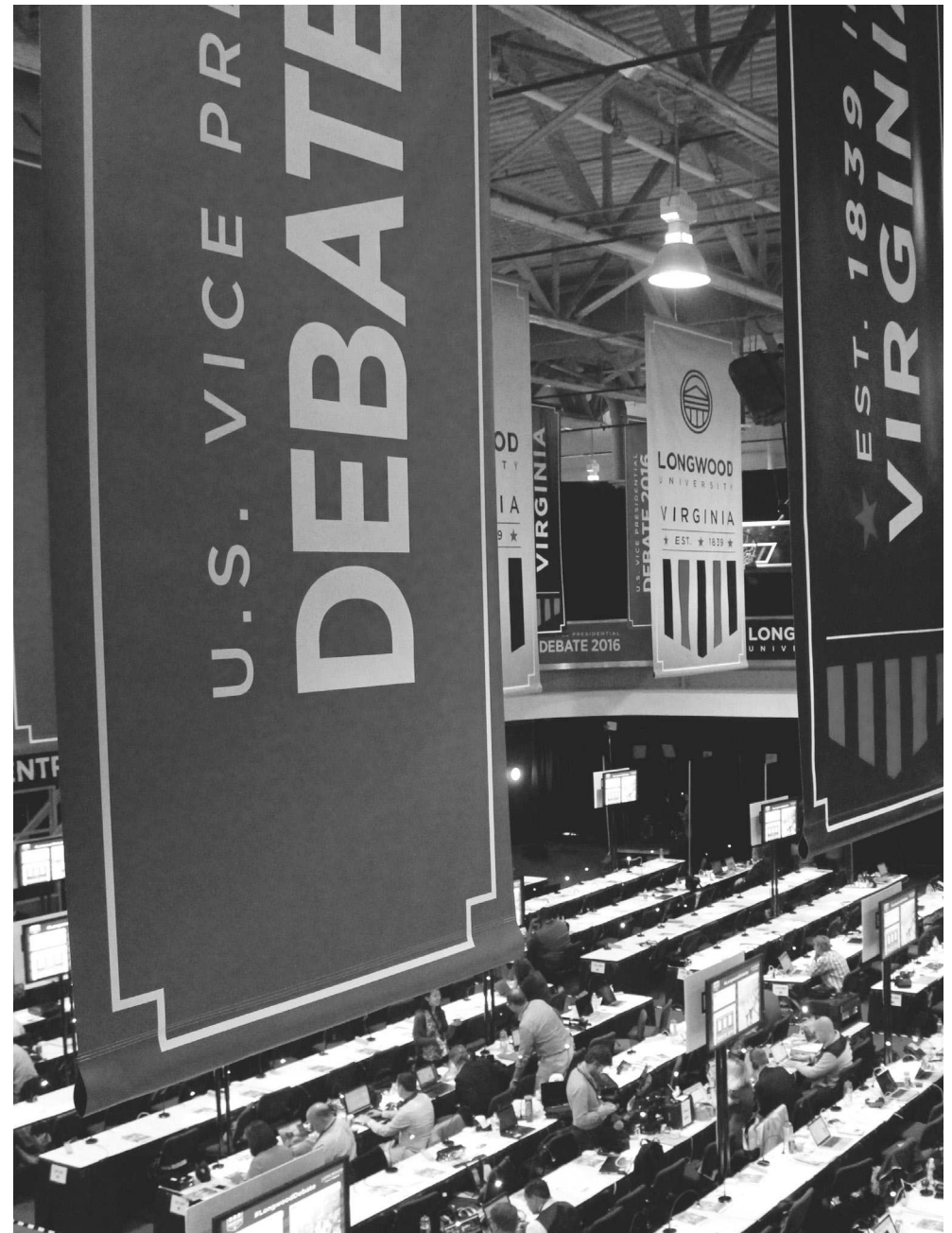
filing center and the debate hall to lease, as well as consulting services.

Copeland said, “You might’ve been to Willett Gym, but if you were blindfolded and taken there, you wouldn’t have recognized it.”

Media engagement was expected to cost \$1.3 million, covering costs associated with advertising, creating the media guide and VP Jubilee festivities on Stubbs Mall on Oct. 14. The final total also surpassed the budgeted mark by \$300,000.

The cost of the Commission of Presidential Debate’s domain satellite transmissions and designs for the debate hall were promised to the commission when Longwood accepted their role as a host site. The promised \$1.9 million didn’t fluctuate between the budgeted and final reports.

Looking at the value of the university’s media exposure, the university attempted to quantify the amount in terms of print, broadcast, online and social media. At least \$68.3 million of the valued \$83.3 million came from broadcasting and online media.



TAYLOR O'BERRY | THE ROTUNDA (FILE PHOTO)  
Costs for the media filing center and debate hall were covered in the \$3.8 million dedicated to facilities and public safety. Longwood contracted Freeman Company to furnish and stage.

“You can’t buy that,” said Copeland on Oct. 14, referring to the amount of media exposure the debate brought the university and the town through major news networks like Fox, MSNBC and CNN. “We made sure the name recognition was etched into the minds of the viewers at some point that day.”

He added, “We didn’t allow the enormity of the event to intimidate us. We didn’t know all of the detail when we were awarded the debate. We had no clue exactly what it was going to entail to prepare and deliver on Oct. 4, but I’m proud of Longwood.”





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# Annual Big Event renews mark on Farmville

## Students pitch in to help the community

by David Pettyjohn  
Features Staff  
@PettyjohnDavid

This past Saturday, Longwood University held their annual Big Event, a day of community service and student bonding. Participants signed up in advance to reserve their spots, and arrived at the Grand Dining Hall around 9 a.m. for a small breakfast and waited for further instructions. One of the organizers of the event was junior Katherine Hyland, a business administration major who is concentrating in marketing and minoring in art history.

The Big Event is run by a student organization of the same name, and Hyland is on the logistics side of the operation. She has been involved with the Big Event for two years now, and has been on the committee since her sophomore year.

“We got everything started around September,” said Hyland, referencing how long it took to prepare the event.

“I talked to Longwood to rent out the Grand Dining Hall, I talked to Aramark to get out food donated, I talked to WMLU (Longwood’s student-run radio station).” She also said that there were a multitude of “PR days,” when the Big Event was advertised to the student body. “We hand out flyers, and there’s a lot of word of mouth, as well; upperclassmen inform lowerclassmen about it through the Greek community, which is also great,” added Hyland.

To quote Hyland, she and her colleagues have a “master list” of job sites in Farmville that have been assisted during prior Big Events. These job sites are sometimes the houses of local residents or community resources, such as playgrounds. This year, the Big Event organizers also went to Main Street to look for new job sites.

Hyland listed some of the specific job sites and activities

that were worked on this year. Most of the groups are assigned to help at residential homes, though are other activities as well. One group built a wheelchair ramp, and two others cleaned up playgrounds. Still others worked indoors, performing work like organizing the books in a library.

“They’re not all outside, but most of it is,” said Hyland.

Hyland and her crew did not directly engage in these activities because they were too busy keeping the event running. They acquire the equipment the students need and ensure that it is brought back to Frazer Hall, among other tasks.

The Big Event is held annually in March, and emails will be sent out in advance of the next one reminding students to sign up.



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- SVM3: Extra-Large Cheese

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**We also have several group/party order specials and  
always our 7.99 large carryout and 5.99 mix and  
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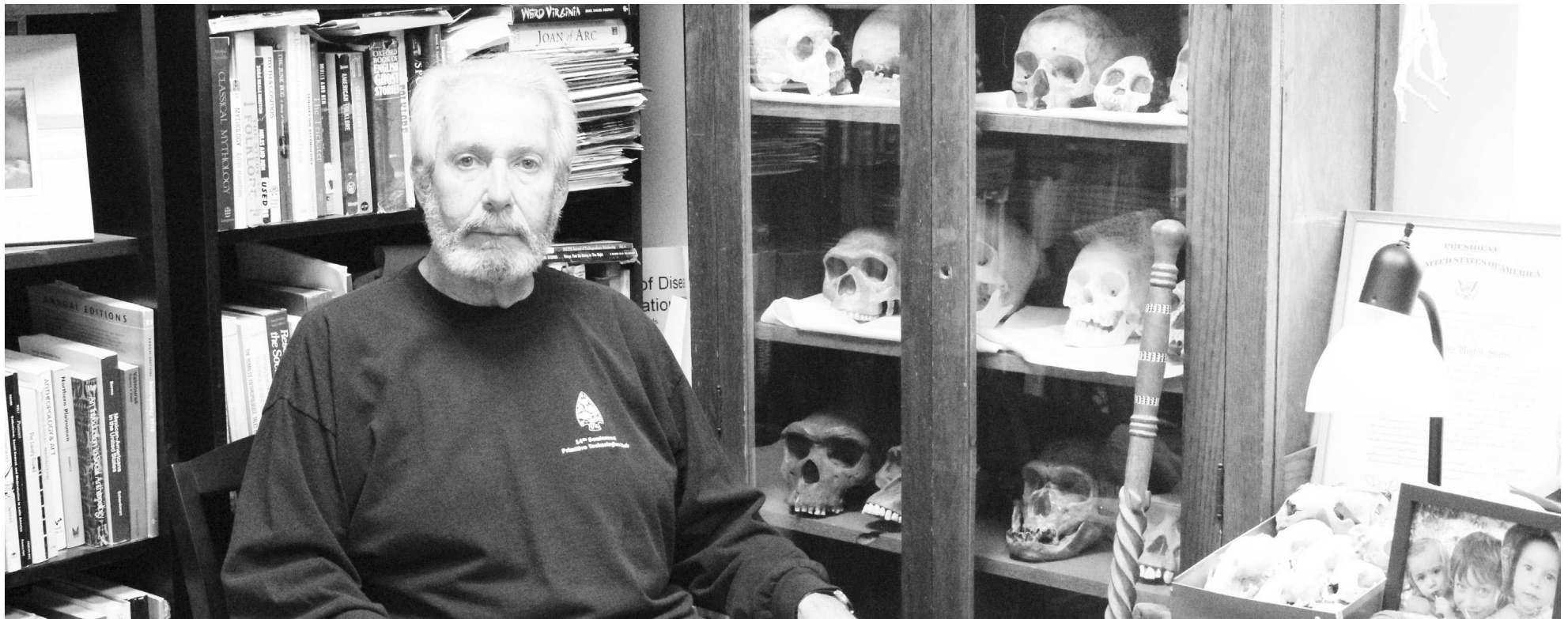
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**Contact:** therotundaonline@gmail.com

# Dr. Jordan receives prestigious state scholar award

by Miranda Farley  
Features Staff  
@mir4nd9



TAYLOR O'BERRY | THE ROTUNDA

Dr. Jim Jordan, professor of sociology and anthropology, with a wild boar skull, along with the many other skulls and artifacts in his office in Ruffner Hall.

Dr. James Jordan sits in his office, which is decorated with various animal skulls and collected bones displayed in showcases and on shelves surround by books. Jordan notes it's unusual for him to be in his office, as most of his time studying is spent outside in the "real world" at historical archaeological sites.

On Saturday, March 25, the 90th annual meeting for The Virginia Social Science Association (VSSA) was hosted by Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), where Jordan was presented with the VSSA Scholar Award. There were a total of 21 colleges represented at the 2017 VSSA Conference.

"It was the 11,000 students that I've taught over the last 39 years at Longwood, truly this award was theirs, but they've all gone someplace ... they've all graduated,

and they go away, and so I'm left here all alone, so they had to give the award to me," said Jordan. "But when I stood up to accept this award, I didn't look behind me because I wondered what I was doing, but (because) I could sense that there were 11,000 Longwood students that I was representing."

Before Jordan called Longwood home, he taught at other universities in Georgia and at the University of Connecticut. In West Africa, Jordan had the opportunity to carry out fieldwork in the countries of Nigeria, Ghana, Togo, Ivory Coast, Dahomey and Upper Volta. Jordan has published a total of 31 articles and chapters in books.

He works about 50 hours a week, mostly at archaeological sites.

"My racket as an anthropologist and archaeologist is to be in the 'real world' and

the real world is outside there (he points outside his office window) so the regular work I do I'm not visible on campus because I'm in the field," said Jordan.

Jordan started teaching at Longwood 39 years ago, where he now serves as the Chief Faculty Marshal of Longwood, leading all academic ceremonies, such as commencement.

He takes pride in representing Longwood and a major part of why it felt so good to accept the VSSA scholar award on Saturday was because he was representing Longwood amongst other bigger schools in the state. Some of the other schools represented at the 2017 VSSA Conference included Virginia Tech, University of Virginia, VCU and James Madison University.

"It just felt good to represent Longwood in that crowd and to know that Longwood

was upfront," said Jordan.

After receiving the VSSA scholar award, Jordan reflected on what it meant to him.

"It meant a great deal to me. It meant that what I was doing with my students at Longwood must have been the right thing," said Jordan.

Longwood presented Jordan with the highest honor the university can award a faculty member in 2014, when he was named Longwood University Board of Visitors Distinguished Professor of Anthropology. The award has only been awarded nine times in the history of the University.

"My roles in life that I'm most proud of are being a daddy to my daughters, being a granddaddy to my grandchildren and being a teacher to my students at Longwood," said Jordan.



# Legally Blonde Review

The play adaptation at Waterworks excels despite hiccups

by Richie Kamtchoum  
Asst. A&E Editor  
@richiepbm



Experiencing community theatre for the first time can be an unparalleled experience. Luckily for this writer, “Legally Blonde” held its own and managed not to let its cult film franchise down at the same time.

Hosted by Waterworks Players, the musical based off the 2001 film of the same name carries a legacy weight that doesn’t accompany many plays.

Thankfully that didn’t stop the show from being a treat, as the cast was especially good, marked by outstanding performances from a few characters in particular.

As it might be a trend in stage production, the set had minimal props and design, instead opting for a large double door to carry most of the design. The live music that sequenced and paced the show was absolutely fantastic, with perhaps one slip-up in an otherwise well executed performance.

As for the show itself, the flaws were noticeable but somehow enjoyable nonetheless. In particular, the singing was a little rough around the edges. It’d be ludicrous to want actors and actresses to channel the voices of Adele, Beyonce and Sam Smith, but a refrain from hitting high

notes out of respective vocal ranges would have sufficed.

Also, some of the cast could have been a little more lively in their delivery, mostly in relation to the ensemble acts where it seemed background members preferred to stay unnoticed.

The musical numbers in “Legally Blonde” had a perfect mix of laugh-out-loud lyrics and cringe-worthy ones at the same time. However, cringing at some of the lines, songs or dances didn’t feel bad as it seemed the writers purposely added a lot of that material for comedic purposes and for pure laughs.

If that was the goal, it was certainly a job well done. “Legally Blonde” excels as a comedy in every which way, including hilarious references to sexual preferences and borderline lewd dancing.

Although she’s no Reese Witherspoon, Anna Hicks as Elle Woods might be the next best thing. Bringing Woods to life exceptionally well, Hicks thrived in her solo numbers and dialogues, with a uncanny blend of personality, humor and depth.

As the star of the show that happened to be in almost

every scene, Hicks commanded the stage, hardly faltering throughout her performance.

Longwood University’s own Miriam Loya as Paulette received the loudest applause of the night, deservedly so for a hilarious performance as the Italian hairdresser. If ever there was a comedic relief in an already funny play, Loya was it, as her big personality garnered laughs throughout the night.

Lastly, Kolby Grimsley as Enid was terrific. In her couple of starring moments, Enid as Grimsley stole the show. Grimsley, a former Peace Corps hardcore-styled lawyer in training was the best of the secondary supporting cast members.

Not to be overstated, but as a comedy “Legally Blonde” is hilarious. With a new-age feminist approach, the play tackles sexism and romanticism brilliantly. The hiccups are to be expected with the limitations to community theatre, but the price is worth the admission.





# THE REEL LIFE

## "Ghost in the Shell" (2017) Review

by Jacob DiLandro  
A&E Staff  
@spongejay1

In 1995, acclaimed anime director Mamoru Oshii adapted the best-selling manga series "Ghost in the Shell" into an animated feature film.

Now, with an increase in Japanese awareness in the mainstream media, Rupert Sanders, the director of "Snow White and the Huntsman" has brought the Japanese staple stateside in a live action adaptation. Is this film just a hollow shell of the original?

The film tells the story of Major, a human whose brain was placed inside a robotic shell after a terrible accident, who now fights for an anti-terrorist group called Section 9.

Major, portrayed by Scarlett Johansson, is a cold force of nature, who wants to figure out her past and why she was placed in the shell.

Problems are everywhere, but first, the positives. This is a visually stunning film, full of great flair and a very cool looking cityscape. The effects blend seamlessly with the human actors and not once is there a scene that features dodgy CGI or questionable green screen effects.

Famous Japanese actor "Beat" Takeshi Kitano also shines in his role as Major's superior, Chief Daisuke Aramaki. Music is solid and done well. Not all of it is great, but the opening and closing themes are memorable and it punctuates the action nicely.

Everything else is bad. Scarlett Johansson is wooden and lifeless as Major. Pilou Asbæk as Major's friend

Batou is also lifeless and charmless. The entire cast just falls flat. The writing is also abysmal, leading to long stretches of boring scenes and a muddled plot that never fully explains what is happening.

Those initially invested in Major's plight will most likely find themselves disinterested by the time the film concludes, as the last third act is poorly paced and generic. This goes for the action scenes as well. While there are a lot, none ever stand out and the entire film ends up feeling like a generic sci-fi action film by the end.

"Ghost in the Shell" fails to be even a decent turn-off-your-brain action film, as it does try to get its loftier ideas about humanity and identity across, but they never fully manifest in a satisfying, or even coherent way.

There's being ambiguous to tell a mysterious story that your audience must piece together and then there's just not telling them basic story and plot details.

Boring and lifeless, "Ghost in the Shell" may have pretty visuals, a cool soundtrack and one good performance, but it can't make up for an incoherent plot, poorly written characters, generic action scenes, and a metaphor that is continuously beaten over the audience's head.

"Ghost in the Shell" could have been great. Instead, it's just soulless. 1.5/5



1.5/5

## "The Boss Baby" Review

by Jacob DiLandro  
A&E Staff  
@spongejay1

Adapting stories to the big screen is a time-honored tradition for animation. Walt Disney started and arguably perfected the practice, and now it's very commonplace. But, there's a difference between adapting a 250-page novel and adapting a 36-page children's book.

While other films have had success in adapting short form books to the big screen ("Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs," "Horton Hears a Who," "The Little Prince"), can Dreamworks make "The Boss Baby" work, or should the audience throw a tantrum?

Tim is an only child, until The Boss Baby moves in with his family. While he's never given a name, Baby does have a decent amount of charm, due to both being given a lot of great lines and being voiced by Alec Baldwin.

The rest of the cast is fine, stand outs including Baldwin and Miles Christopher Bakshi as Tim. Their chemistry is great, though the material they were given could have been much greater.

Looney Tunes-esque humor prevails throughout the entire film, with characters bouncing everywhere and acting like rubber cartoon characters. The entire movie also maintains this cool, off kilter '50s styled aesthetic that really works, letting imagination prevail and technology cower.

There's a great focus on imagination, where we travel with Tim into his mind for some great sequences, accompanied by a cool cel-shaded visual look. When Baby arrives, there are also some great action set pieces,

like a car chase in the backyard and an epic fight throughout the house.

Unfortunately, that car chase is the best scene in the film, truly taking the imagination and child's whimsy concept to heart. However, it's in the first 30 minutes of the movie.

Once the kids leave the house at around the midway point, not only does the pacing grind to a halt, but so does the humor.

Padding out the rest of the film is a poorly written subplot about revenge and a magical baby formula. One of the movie's biggest issues is that, while it says that it's about imagination and fun, it constantly over-explains its concepts so that the audience is never left to think for themselves.

Not only that, but the ending is 10 minutes too long. Normally, that isn't an issue, but there's even a fade to black scene and then 10 more minutes of the movie that add nothing to the plot.

Couple that with an attempted, but failing emotional arc, and "The Boss Baby" really starts to smell.

While the film has some great physical humor in a Looney Tunes-esque way, along with some cool looking 'imagination' inspired animation, the film is saddled with a thin plot, forgettable characters, poor emotional arcs and a lackluster third act.

While not as bad as Dreamworks' worst, by the end, you just want to put this baby back to bed. 2.5/5



2.5/5

# PSA on SGA Elections

## Run right or don't run at all

by Jesse Plichta-Kellar  
News Staff  
@JesseKellar

Ah, the time of the year with the most Facebook spam for college students: Student Government Association (SGA) elections. I'm sure everyone's thankful voting closed on Tuesday, not to return to Longwood for another year. With that in mind, I propose some guidelines for students who plan on running in the future:

1.

**If you can't write a description about yourself and your qualifications, don't run at all.**

I didn't count, but about a third to half of the people running didn't bother writing why people should vote for them. If you can't tell me why I should vote for you, I can't vote for you. It's just lazy. Why would I want someone that lazy to be my senator or secretary?

To me, running for a position without a description is like a dog chasing a car. What are you going to do if you get it?

Even if you don't have a long list of qualifications with previous positions held or other relevant experiences, it's not that difficult. It's as easy as mad libs. So easy, in fact, that I've written one for potential candidates, just replace the items in parenthesis:

My name is (first name) (last name) and I am a (class rank) (major). I want to be your (position) because I think I would be (adjective) at it. I (have or have not) had experience with the SGA doing (position), (but or and) know that I am a good candidate for (position). My ideas are to improve the (noun) at Longwood University and to facilitate more communication between the SGA and (group of people).

2.

**Don't spam the same Facebook page. It's annoying as hell.**

I'm already seeing your post multiple times in other Longwood-related groups; nothing makes me want to vote for you less than seeing it in the same group every day for a week or two. Whether I planned on voting for you or not, seeing the post seventeen times won't sway me.

3.

**Don't assume people who have heard of you will vote for you. And don't assume people know you.**

While on some level this a popularity contest, but, I probably don't know you. There are 4,614 undergraduate students at Longwood. The average class size is about twenty-five people, and I've taken ten classes so far. Assuming no overlap, I've met about 250 people through class. I'm also meaningfully involved with four organizations, and have probably interacted with an additional 100 people through said organizations.

There's certainly overlap between classes and organizations, but I'll keep the math simple and optimistic. If we assume little to no overlap, I've met about 350 other Longwood students.

So I've in theory, met about 7.58 percent of the Longwood student population. That's not people I know or would necessarily vote for, just the maximum number of people I've interacted or spent time with through classes and organizations. For older students, this number could be higher, but the odds still aren't in your favor.

This circles back to how adding your description can help me know you, just a little bit. Nothing crazy, just your name, major, year and why you want the position.

Don't talk about unrelated things like your pets or religion - one person actually did this and I sat there thinking, "Separation of church and state, dude." Even if you don't use my convenient mad libs, please take the time to write a paragraph or two about yourself and your qualifications.

Just make yourself sound like a human being, not a faceless candidate demanding a position. Is that so much to ask?

# DeVos' stance on school choice is concerning

by Katelynn Deal  
Contributor  
@longwoodrotunda

In the early days of Donald Trump's presidency, Betsy DeVos was nominated as secretary of education on Jan. 20. Following significant amounts of controversy and several protests, DeVos was ultimately confirmed by the senate after U.S. Vice President Mike Pence cast the deciding vote on Feb. 7.

Since then, many have expressed their concern regarding her experience and her outlook on public education. However, her stance on school choice has raised the ears of many Americans, including her fellow Republicans.

DeVos is a strong proponent for school choice. While many families choose to send their children to public schools, others do not. DeVos strongly believes that parents should have a say or a choice, regarding whether or not

their children attend private or public schools. I can't say that I have a problem with this.

However, I do have a problem with one thing: DeVos has zero experience with public schools. That's kind of scary, right? Considering she is the Secretary of Education, one would think she would have years of experience. Sadly though, she doesn't.

DeVos attended private schools, as did her children. I think that private school education is fantastic and extremely beneficial. Students can truly receive the one-on-one attention they need, and the teachers do an outstanding job. Nevertheless, I find it very disturbing that she, and the Trump administration as a whole, have proposed an additional \$20 billion to the private spending budget in

order to give parents "school choice;" the budget is already spending around \$50 billion annually.

According to USA Today's article, "Conservatives To DeVos," adding \$20 billion to the private spending budget would increase government intervention in the private school sector by 30 percent. American Enterprise Institute resident scholar Rick Hess said not only would this "distort the marketplace," it would also increase government regulations in private schools.

— "DEVOS," CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

# The Beauty Community: New false lash brand to launch

by Paulina A. Marinero  
Opinions Staff  
@MarineroPaulina



PAULINA MARINERO | THE ROTUNDA

Rotunda beauty column reviews new fake lash brand, Baby Coco, prior to its release.

When it comes to false lashes, you either love them or you can't be bothered to poke your eye out by them. Not only is getting into the crevice of your eyeball intimidating and terrifying, but having to pay more than \$10 for a long-lasting pair isn't ideal, especially when shipping fees aren't included. Definitely not how I imagined spending all my money.

Breaking news: a new lash brand is in town and ready to save you of your false lash nightmares! Internet sensation and CEO of Baby Coco Lash, Courtney, nicknamed Baby Coco on social media, has just

revealed her secret project with a purpose. Coco said she preferred not to provide her last name.

"I practiced (false lashes) for months and went through dozens of different brands and styles ... only to find they were almost all overpriced, too short or just too heavy," Coco said in a phone interview.

The new lash brand has claimed to be 100 percent animal cruelty-free, high quality and long-lasting all while keeping your wallet and budget intact.

"The Baby Coco lashes are aimed for ladies and gentlemen who want beautiful

lashes while still keeping their look casual enough for everyday wear. Natural, but noticeable, and most important: comfortable," Coco said.

It's no secret Coco made a huge splash with her upcoming brand. With a strong social media background, Coco has 51,500 followers on Instagram and 42,000 on Twitter, making her launch even more public to her fans and viewers, including myself. Coco reached out to me and sent her lashes to try and review for the past few weeks and the results were surprisingly stunning.

Before applying, I trimmed the lash so it would fit my eye. I also encourage you

to measure the band length and trim it best to fit your eye shape. Then, I applied my Ardell lash glue adhesive to the band, which was so incredibly thin! False lashes are connected and stuck together by a long, dark plastic stick, known as the band. Most false lash brands are known for either their thin/thick bands or quality of the lash itself.

Having a thin lash band made the application process easier and gave it a natural look, the intended design of the lashes. I managed to apply them quickly, cutting mascara time in half. I applied eyeliner (NYX Matte Liquid) over the lash

band to hide any traces of left-over glue and finally, curled my lashes to blend in with my new falsies. Voila, all done!

As far as comfort and longevity goes, these babies stayed glued to my eyes for well over five hours, and I didn't feel a thing. I usually have a hard time finding false lashes that don't look heavy on my top lid as I have hooded eyelids - skin that drapes over your crease making your eyelid nearly invisible. To combat this, I applied mascara to my bottom which seemed to balance out the volume and length with my falsies on top.

I found that I was obsessed with the lash length - it practically touched my eyebrows, which to me gives that extra, flirty look. They've lasted me eight wears and, to be completely honest, they could be used for a few more nights out.

Regarding her new brand's potential mark on the industry, Coco concluded, "I am not a makeup artist by any means, but I do know what I like. And I think you guys will love how light-weight, but popping they are. I am so thankful for all of you who stand by me. I see you and thank God for you."

These lashes are perfect for nights out and days in. The lash design created by Coco was intended to space out the lashes, giving room to see your bomb eyeshadow at any time of the day. Although Coco hasn't released an official date, be prepared to hear anything sometime in early April. I know, I can't wait either! Follow Baby Coco Lash on Instagram and Twitter @babycocolash for updates and giveaways before the big launch.

Congrats, Coco!

— "DEVOS," CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

What about public school funding? What about the classrooms that have old, outdated textbooks? What about the teachers who have to pay for supplies, posters, teaching tools and even books right out of their own pockets? What about the families who simply can't afford to send their children to private schools? What about the public school budgets that get smaller and smaller every year?

In 2013, DeVos said in an interview with Philanthropy Roundtable, "Traditional public schools are not succeeding. In fact, let's be clear, in many cases, they are failing. That's

helped people become more open to what were once considered really radical reforms—reforms like vouchers, tax credits, and education savings accounts."

Public schools could succeed if there was better funding, and more encouragement from the leaders in Washington, D.C. Instead of DeVos openly demoting the importance and value of public education, she could easily use her power as secretary of education to propose better funding, reduce micromanagement of classrooms by Common Core standards and overall improve the public education stigma.

While public schools are not perfect, I know from experience that there are qualified, passionate, inspiring and important teachers in this country. I know from experience that colleges and universities nationwide are raising a generation of educators that know how to teach 21st century students.

Public education has always been important and always will be, even if our secretary of education believes otherwise.



# ROTONION

{Pronounced: row • ton • yun (noun); a ridiculous argument column}

## IT'S QUESTION TIME

### His side

by Austin Berry  
Layout Editor  
@austinoburrito

Hello everyone and welcome back to the Rotonion. Blah, blah, blah questions and stuff. So on and so forth, let's get started!

**Q1: "How do I quit going to school and begin my Pokémon journey if all these casuals keep having better Pokémon than me in Pokémon Go?"**

Wait, is Pokémon Go still a thing? Listen, I'll level with you here; I know nothing about Pokémon Go. I played the game for a week, and I was that guy who joined the yellow team. In short, I am far from an expert in the topic. I can however, share this bit of advice from the Longwood website:

"Current Longwood students that are not planning on continuing their enrollment with Longwood University after the completion of the term are required to formally withdraw. In order to officially withdraw, students must meet with a staff member in the Office of the Registrar. The formal withdrawal process will ensure cancellation of housing assignments, registered courses, tuition, and other associated charges."

There you have it, the rest is up to you. How you plan to make money on a game that I don't think anyone plays anymore is up to you. Sadly, I don't think "Professional Pokémon Goer" is going to be much of a resume boost. (But if you want business cards made, my twitter handle is at the top of the page. #Shamelessselfpromotion.) Should I be wrong, and Pokémon Go is still super cool, and I have offended you in

some way, The Rotunda meetings are on Mondays at 7 p.m., so you can kill me there.

(Also elections are tonight, so if you want to work for the Rotunda, now's the time.)

**Q2: "What song should I sing for karaoke?"**

When in doubt, "Wonderwall."

Yes, I know it's over-done, but there is a method to my madness here.

So, first off, if you are on stage to sing for karaoke, then you've made a series of mistakes that I cannot help you with.

What I can help you with is not making a fool of your assumedly drunk self.

This is why you need to sing a song everyone knows forward and backward, drunk or sober. Enter "Wonderwall." All you have to do is get the chorus started, then the audience won't be able to help but take over. This is due to what science calls DIWA syndrome, or "Damn-it, it's 'Wonderwall again' syndrome, where the affected individual can't help but sing to the catchy chorus.

Boom, now the audience is singing, and no one will know that you don't sing like Michael Bublé.

Also, screw you for making me spell karaoke. It's a hard word and I don't spell too good.

There you go, I hope these answers have been helpful, or at least mildly mediocre.

When in doubt, strive for average.

XOXO- Gossip Austin

### Her side

by Cassie Tagert  
Copy Editor  
@TheRotonion

**Q1: "How do I quit going to school and begin my Pokémon journey if all these casuals keep having better Pokémon than me in Pokémon Go?"**

Unfortunately, this is a topic I don't have much experience with. Although, there is an obvious answer. You have to one-up the casuals. You can't let them take your rightful place as Pokémon King/Queen, especially if they are only playing as a hobby. Here's what you need to do.

You need to find REAL Pokémon. I'm not talking cartoon ones or stuffed animal ones or card ones or virtual video game ones. I'm talking about living, breathing Pokémon.

It sounds easy, but it's more difficult than it seems. Pokémon can't just be found frolicking in the wood of Farmville, and as you are stuck here until you get enough cred in Pokémon Go, you might be at a disadvantage.

Let's think about this logically. What is a squirtle, really? It's a turtle with a swirly tail. So, all you have to do is find a turtle and tape a swirly tail on its butt. BAM. Instant Pokémon. Pikachu: yellow cat with a tail that's broken in two places. Eevee: a fox with a fluffy mane around its neck.

Once you collect them all, then and only then, will you beat the casuals.

Good luck getting them into the little balls. That's all you.

Another option is that you could just wait it out. The casuals will be getting bored of Pokémon Go any minute now, if they haven't already.

**Q2: "What song should I sing for karaoke?"**

Here's the issue with this question: karaoke is so 1995. The new thing these days is spoken

word poetry or slam poetry.

Why sing a song that someone else wrote and everyone has heard a million times (because let's be honest, indie hasn't made it to karaoke yet), when you can passionately rant about the issues in front of a bunch of other angst-junkies?

Also, slam poetry is easy. You can write it ahead of time and rehearse it, OR you can be improvisational and edgy. It's a great way to bring attention to uncomfortable subjects that most people would otherwise avoid talking about - like depression, eating disorders, politics, poverty - the list goes on. The best part: if you're busy ranting passionately, people will be so enthralled by your intensity that they won't have time to bother paying attention to the poetic quality of your rant.

You may ask, isn't poetry about word play and the musicality of words? The answer is no, at least not anymore.

It's 2017. It's okay to sacrifice the beautiful manipulation of words for meaning. That's why people stopped reading poetry in the first place; it got too artsy.

So, let go of your fanciful ideas of getting discovered through bellowing other people's music into a microphone at a bar while words go across a screen. We both know you're going to be off-key. Pick up the mic and make people feel guilty about the quality of their lives for ten minutes. It's more expressive, and you can bet people will be talking about it for a long, long time.

# SOFT: Winthrop sweeps Lancers

by Stephanie Roberts  
Sports Staff  
@longwoodrotunda



LAURA CLARKE | THE ROTUNDA (FILE PHOTO)

**Senior pitcher Elizabeth McCarthy claimed the all time career strike-out record.**

The Longwood softball team took two losses on the road this past weekend in South Carolina to the Winthrop Eagles. This was the Lancers fourth conference loss putting them 1-4 in the conference and 12-19 overall.

Winthrop beat Longwood 1-0 on March 31 after Winthrop freshman and third baseman Ashley Westbrooks hit a fourth inning two-out home run. The two

Eagles pitchers, Kiley Majette and Keleigh Romine, held the Lancers to only two hits in the game and securing their shutout. This was the fourth time in the five seasons Longwood has been in the Big South conference that Winthrop has taken the win.

Sophomore pitcher, Sydney Gaye, has yielded only two runs in her past three outings with the Lancers. Gaye struck out five Winthrop hitters, making it her eleventh time this season striking out five or more players in a game.

The Lancers then fell 4-5 to the Eagles in the first game of the day on April 1. Winthrop came back into the game in the seventh inning by scoring three runs to overcast Longwood's two runs. Winthrop freshman Ashley Westbrooks led the Eagles to victory by hitting the game tying two-run double, and then hitting

the game winner run in the bottom of the seventh inning. While Longwood junior first base-man, Kelsey Sweeney had an impressive game with two outs and two-run triple, it was not enough to push past the Eagles effort in the seventh inning.

The Eagles then continued on to take the tournament sweep after winning the third and final game of the tournament 3-2.

Morgan Lower the sophomore outfielder for the Eagles hit the winning run in the bottom of the fifth. Longwood junior outfielder, Glenn Walters, helped erase a two run deficit by hitting a home-run at the top of the inning.

Longwood senior pitcher, Biz McCarthy, moved to being Longwood's all-time career strike-out leader. McCarthy also moved to the Top 10 in Big South history in career strike-outs. Before the day began McCarthy was only one strike out shy of tying previous Longwood all-time career strike-out leader Brianna Wells. McCarthy tied her in the first game of the day second inning, and then continued on to surpass her and claim her title all-time career strike-out leader. McCarthy finished each of her three full seasons here at Longwood with 145 strikeouts or more, and is one of only two Lancers in the 500 strikeout club.

This was Winthrop's fourth straight win in a row and moved them to second place in the Big South Conference standings. The Eagles were also the first team in conference to have swept the Lancers since they joined the conference five years ago.

The Lancers will continue on the road to play North Carolina on March 4. They will be pushing for the win to make it their fourth straight win against an ACC opponent. The Lancers next conference match will be against Gardner-Webb and be hosted home on Saturday, and look to gain their second conference win.

## WEEKLY ROUNDUP

### SOFTBALL

**Friday, March 31**

@ Winthrop L 0-1

**Saturday, April 1**

@ Winthrop L 4-5

@ Winthrop L 2-3

### LACROSSE

**Saturday, April 1**

@ Radford W 19-16

### MEN'S TENNIS

**Thursday, March 30**

vs Hampden-Sydney W 7-0

**Saturday, April 1**

@Gardener-Webb L 3-4

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

**Saturday, April 1**

vs N.C. Central W 4-0

### MEN'S GOLF

**Saturday, April 1**

vs Longwood/ Manor

Intercollegiate 3rd/10

## Club sports weekend roundup

### RESULTS

**Longwood Baseball Club**

**Saturday, April 1**

Club Baseball defeated Virginia Commonwealth University in both games during their doubleheader, winning 3-2 and 11-4.

### UPCOMING MATCHES

**Longwood Club Women's Soccer**

**Sunday, April 9**

2 p.m. @ Lancer Park



# Longwood hosts annual Ultimate Lancer Competition

by Patrick Sanderson  
Contributor  
@longwoodrotunda

It was more than just a competition this year. This year, it meant more than just out-lifting your competitor. Saturday's Ultimate Lancer Competition was dedicated to a single motto: "Live like Shiv."

Longwood sophomore Shiv Sharma tragically passed away in April 2016 in a car accident, but his legacy at Longwood continues to thrive. Sharma competed in previous powerlifting competitions while inspiring others to set the bar higher for themselves.

The competition on April 1 was organized by a student-run committee dedicated to powerlifting, along with students who were close with Sharma. Longwood Campus Recreation Fitness and Wellness Coordinator Alina Cioletti said she realized the amount of impact Shiv had on the Longwood community and the powerlifting competition, while overseeing the committee.

"We changed the name of the competition to the 'Live Like Shiv' Ultimate Lancer Powerlifting Competition," said Cioletti. "There's more emotion involved with the students this year."

Sharma's family attended the event to watch the competitors take on the challenges that Sharma endured himself. Sid Sharma, Shiv's younger brother, described their relationship's competitive nature and how Shiv impacted his life.

"I didn't really get to spend much time with him but he wanted to change his life," Sid said. "So, I'm really motivated to lose weight myself now."

This competition was nothing new to recent Longwood graduate Jonathan Davis '16, who participated during his time as a student. He now holds multiple powerlifting state records and said he owes his success to Shiv.

"He introduced me to the sport of powerlifting actually," said Davis. "He's been a big inspiration for me."

As someone who knew Sharma personally, exercise science senior Deanna Wetzel reflected on her time spent with him and the enthusiasm he had about the event.

"He was sort of peer pressuring everyone to join," Wetzel said. "He even paid someone's entry fee just so they would compete."

According to Cioletti, this year's competition was executed differently than previous years. Competitors were divided up into three waves based on gender and weight class. They then pushed through the three powerlifting events - squats, deadlifts and bench press - with each round modeling a true Olympic-style event.

"Last year it was 'just come one, come all,' and we'll just let you know when you lift," Cioletti said. "This year it is set



Weightlifting competition held in the honor of Shiv Sharma, a Longwood student who passed away in a car accident a year ago. The competition used the hashtag, #LiveLikeShiv.

up so that things run more smoothly." The competition is an opportunity for the competitors to show their friends and family the extent of what they can put their bodies through. The roars of the supporters could be heard throughout the gym, encouraging the competitors to push their bodies to the limit.

Powerlifting requires more than a daily gym routine. Competitors take weightlifting to the next level, knowing what their body can handle, and adding another weight.

One by one, the competitors went through the same routine: squatted into a seated position, carrying the weights on their backs before thrusting upwards, letting out a deep breath of exhaust, before doing it all over again. Competing in her second powerlifting competition, Wetzel described



TAYLOR O'BERRY | THE ROTUNDA

how she trained differently this year compared to last year.

"Last year, I had so much fun; so I wanted to do another competition," said Wetzel. "This year, I wanted to focus more on powerlifting and be more prepared for it."

The powerlifting competition aimed to give the competitors a chance to show what they are capable of. Winning is one thing, while the feeling of accomplishing a goal outweighs any other prize.

According to Cioletti, next year's competition will continue on as the #LiveLikeShiv Ultimate Lancer Powerlifting Competition, forever branding a name that changed the lives and inspired many people at Longwood and beyond.