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'State-of-the-Art' Nursing Center Dedicated

By: James Hooper

The Longwood University Nursing Department's state-of-the-art instructional and simulation facility was recently dedicated.

The Edward I. Gordon, M.D. Clinical Simulation Learning Center (CSLC), located on the renovated third floor of Stevens Hall, is designed to advance the clinical and critical reasoning skills of Longwood nursing students in a safe environment. The facility was made possible by a \$1 million gift from Dr. Edward Gordon, a longtime Farmville physician, in August 2009. The CSLC features high-tech equipment including manikins capable of simulating a remarkable array of physiological functions, called "high-fidelity patient simulators," and a digital audiovisual system that allows for live recordings of simulated experiences to be recorded and played back for faculty and student evaluation. The

cameras and manikins are controlled from one central control station.

"The nursing students who will go through this program are going to save lives," Dr. Gordon said before he and others cut a ceremonial ribbon Feb. 1 in the corridor of the CSLC. "And they're going to save lives in a way that is so different from in the past because they'll go into their first clinical experiences with live people who actually talk back to them and know what to do and have been through some of the horrors of the mistakes that were made in the simulation lab but not in the real world. The amount of things that can be done here just appear to be endless, and the growth potential of this is also endless. This Center ties together all of the things that mean the most to me - health care, nursing, computers, Farmville and Longwood - and is more than I ever envisioned."



(From left to right) Nursing student Stacy Bolt; project manager Kim Bass (of Longwood Capital Planning & Construction); Dr. Melody Eaton, chair of the Nursing Department; Longwood President Patrick Finnegan; lead donor Dr. Edward Gordon; and Cindy Crews, clinical simulation director in the Nursing Department

Photo Courtesy: Kent Booy

All of the funding for the work and equipment for the CSLC came from private donations and grants. Other donors include the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission, the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation, the Richmond Memorial Health Foundation, and the Marietta McNeill Morgan

and Samuel Tate Morgan, Jr. Foundation. The CSLC labs have been used since August 2010. Longwood's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) program, launched in fall 2009, currently has 74 students.

"You cannot help but be impressed by the Center and the technology that our students will have the

opportunity to use to aid in their learning," Longwood President Patrick Finnegan said at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. "This Center puts our program on the cutting edge of educating and training these student nurses to help prepare them to be among the very best in their profession. Thank you, Dr. Gordon, for your outstanding support of this Center, for your enthusiasm for our nursing program, and for all your efforts on behalf of Longwood University. You are helping to make a difference in the lives of our students, whom we know will go on to assist and serve others in an area of great need for our Commonwealth and our nation."

Dr. Melody Eaton, chair of the Nursing Department, also praised Dr. Gordon's generosity and touted the CSLC's benefits. "This Center will play a key and integral role in the success of our new nursing program," she said. "It will

offer experiential thinking skills, and confidence in caring for patients."

The CSLC includes two Patient Simulation Labs, two Fundamental Labs, a Health Assessment Lab, a control room, a conference/debrief room, and a storage/prep room. "Anything that you can do in a clinical setting simulation lab, we can do here," said Cindy Crews, clinical simulation director and lecturer in the Nursing Department. The facility has four high-fidelity manikins and about 12 mid- and low- Patient Simulation and Fundamental labs.

"All of the high-fidelity manikins can breathe, talk, and have a wide range of physiological responses," Crews said. "We can simulate anything from birth to death, and we have a manikin who delivers. We have adult, pediatric and infant manikins. 'Slim Man 3G' is one of the most advanced patient simulators

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Deans Across Country Protest U.S. News Rankings

By Ethan Colbert

Deans from across the country are protesting against a change in the U.S. News and World Report's ranking system for schools of education, which could list some schools as failing to meet education standards when they do not respond to researchers. The report is co-sponsored by the U.S. News and World Report and National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ).

Last year, Longwood was ranked ninth in the category "Top Public Universities-Master's" in the South, according to a university press release.

In the past when schools did not participate, they would not be listed in the report. Instead, U.S. News and World Report Editor Brian Kelly made the decision to list the non-participating schools with an "estimated" rating.

In a letter to the U.S. News and World Report, college of education deans called the change a diversion from the ethical standards of the organization, which will cast doubt on the results on the entire evaluation.

"This is contrary to U.S. News practices with every other professional evaluation that it has conducted," the deans wrote, "We are concerned that such a practice is also inconsistent with professional journalistic practices and will call into question the legitimacy of U.S. News' reports."

The letter was signed by 37 different education officials from 36 education institutions in the U.S.

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Town Prepares for Heart of VA Festival

By: Mary Lindon

"You're going to love the Heart of Virginia Festival, whether you're three or eighty-three!" Those are the words of the Heart of Virginia Festival Chair May Moore, who is leading the planning for this year's showcase event.

Featuring magic shows, face painting, elegant artwork, one-of-a-kind crafts and live music, the annual Heart of Virginia Festival attracts thousands of visitors to downtown Farmville each spring.

Last year's live music included The Adrian Duke Project, The Essence Band and the 80z ENUFF Band, as well as local jazz, rock, soul, oldies and rap artists. This year's lineup has not been announced but the Crute Stage will remain at the corner of Fourth and Main Streets.

Over 80 vendors are expected to participate this year, including many local restaurants, small businesses and merchants. The Outdoor Art Show is, as always, the main attraction. The Art Show began in 1973 and was so successful that four years later in 1977, the Heart of Virginia



Thousands of people lined the streets of Farmville for last year's Heart of Virginia festival. This year's big day is May 7.

Paul Lockland

Festival grew around it. It has remained the mainstay of the Festival, drawing artists from up and down the east coast and providing high-quality art to Festival goers from throughout central Virginia. The works of many artists will be on exhibit for show and sale and will be professionally judged for over \$2,000 in prize money.

Last year's big winners included two victories for local musician and potter Tray Eppes, who won for 'Best Use of Medium,' and 'Best Individual Piece.' Eppes was first runner up for 'Best in Show' behind Adam Paulek.

"Eppes will definitely be back to compete this year and I know we all look forward to seeing this year's show," said Moore. "We hope to get more entries than ever before and we're on track to do just that."

The festival also

offers antique car show, drama, talent shows, and a 10-K run. In the evening the fun moves to the Farmville Airport with more great food and back-to-back bands until dark. Fireworks conclude the day's events.

Moore said that while the events, food and festivities are great, people come back each here because of one thing. "It's the spirit. No place has that old-time neighborliness like Farmville. That's why we boast it's the best small-town festival in the world," said Moore.

Moore asks all of Farmville to mark their calendars for the first Saturday in May. She encourages anyone with questions to visit their website at www.heartofvirginia.org.



Keep The Meter Running

25 Cents Buys You an Hour

By: Ken Woodley

Most Main Street parking meters will soon offer an hour of parking for 25 cents following Town Council action Wednesday night, with a maximum of two hours.

The only exception will be the block of Main from High to Third Streets in which meters will continue offering 30 minutes of parking for 25 cents, with a maximum of two hours.

The change to an hour of parking for 25 cents was the clear winner in a recent poll of downtown merchants but Town Manager Gerald Spates told council members Wednesday night that business people in the High to Third Streets block preferred the status quo, which adequately meets their customers' needs.

"Basically, what we talked about doing was changing the parking at the request of the downtown merchants," Spates said Wednesday night, "from 25 cents for 30 minutes to 25 cents for an hour, with a maximum of two hours. And in talking with the businesses in the one block where the courthouse is they would like

to leave this block exactly like we have it, 25 cents for 30 minutes. Most of their customers are short-term. They're not there that long. And the other meters on the other blocks of Main Street will be 25 cents for an hour, with a maximum of two hours. So that's what I'd like to propose to council."

After a brief discussion regarding the question of parking meter uniformity on Main Street, with a motion by Ward D council member Donald L. Hunter and a second by Ward B council member Sally Thompson, the new parking meter plan for Main Street passed without dissent.

"I can understand their request for this end of Main Street," Hunter said of the courthouse block of Main Street. "That benefits people just trying to run in and out of businesses."

From Third Street to Green Front Furniture will see the meters soon change to allow an hour's worth of parking for 25 cents, with a maximum of two hours.

Town council had nearly voted on the change from

the current 25 cents for 30 minutes last month but a substitute motion had put the proposal into the budget committee for analysis and recommendation.

Meters elsewhere on High Street and Venable Street near Longwood University, for example will remain unchanged, offering 30 minutes for 25 cents, along with the High to Third Streets block.

Spates said the machine, or device, necessary to change the meters has been ordered and Town employees will re-program the downtown meters themselves.

The equipments cost approximately \$350 but by re-programming the meters the Town is saving on the \$12.50 per meter cost Spates said would have been charged by a company that does such work.

"I thought that was a little high," Spates commented during this month's Town Council work session.

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SGA Launches New Website

By: Amanda Davis

After several months without a home on the web, Longwood's Student Government Association (SGA) is back online. In a welcome message on the new site, SGA president Ben Brittain remarked:

"Fellow Lancers: I am pleased to welcome you to our new website! SGA Webmaster, Callie Darling has been hard at work to bring you many new features that make our new site more user friendly, giving students more in depth access to their government."

The new website, located at longwoodsga.weebly.com, provides links to the SGA's Facebook and Twitter accounts and includes a myriad of information about the government's activities.

The SGA's constitution is available for view online, as is the meeting calendar, meeting minutes, a directory of senators and council members, a listing of clubs and organizations, the mission of the student government body at Longwood, and more.

Longwood's SGA requests that if students have any questions, they contact the office at 395-2111, visit them in Room 225 of the Lankford Student Union or e-mail them at longwoodsga@longwood.edu.



SGA President Ben Brittain

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