## Rotunda NEWSPAPER OF LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

## McCroskey Sentenced to Life in Prison

Corey Morris News Editor

FARMVILLE, Va.—The man accused of killing four people a year ago in Farmville pleaded guilty Sept. 20 in Prince Edward County Circuit Court. Richard Samuel Alden McCroskey III, 21, pleaded guilty to two counts of capital murder and two counts of first-degree murder in the bludgeoning deaths of his girlfriend, Emma Niederbrock, 16, her mother and former Longwood University professor of criminal justice, Debra S. Kelley, 53; Kelley's estranged husband, Pastor Mark Niederbrock, 50; and Emma's friend, Melanie Wells, 18, of West Virginia.

The court was under the impression that a motion for a change of venue would be requested from the defense. Instead, McCroskey surprised the court by pleading guilty to two counts of first-degree murder of Kelley Emma Niederbrock and two counts of capital murder of Melanie Wells and Mark Niederbrock. McCroskey said he understood the charges and was able to make the decision under his own power.

Judge Richard S. Blanton sentenced McCroskey to life in prison for the counts of first-degree murder and life in prison without the possibility of parole for the two counts of capital murder. He could have received the death penalty. McCroskey was silent after the sentencing was read to the court filled with family members of the victims as well as police investigators who have worked the case. When he exited court Monday, he only showed a slight smirk.

Cindy Sams, director of victim assistance program for Prince Edward County, released a statement from Kelley's parents, Thomas and Margaret Kelley, as well as family members of Niederbrock and Wells, after the hearing. The statement reads, "We are thankful that the trial of these cases is over and that we may now have some degree of closure. While we will never forget our loved ones or the circumstances of their deaths, we hope to move forward and begin the healing process." They went on to thank the Farmville Police Department and the Virginia State Police for their efforts

Defense attorney Cary B. Bowen said his primary objective was to minimize McCroskey's sentence and "serve our client's interest the best we could." Bowen said McCroskey expressed remorse and understood the severity of what he did. The attorney described his client's mood as "solemn" on Monday. "He said how bad he felt about it," said Bowen. "He's left families without their loved ones. We have four people dead here. He's not proud of that."

McCroskey leaves Prince Edward County Circuit Court after a guilty plea. Photo Courtesy: Mark Gormus, Richmond Times-Dispatch

#### SGA Votes to Not Support Three 6 Mafia On Campus

Nicole Dales

Editor-in-Chief

Concerns have been voiced about bring the music group Three 6 Mafia to the campus for Oktoberfest. There is question as to whether the group should be brought

SEE 'MURDER' PG. 8

to campus or not. During the Tues., Sept. 21 meeting of the Student Government Association (SGA), the Director of the Student Union and Mortar Board adviser Susan Sullivan came to speak about the issues at hand.

"I have met with Chief Beach numerous times about the concerns," Sullivan told the SGA. She explained they have heard concerns out in the community. She said the music group's agents are willing to do whatever they need to in order to make the situation safer. Longwood's Chief of Police Bob Beach also vowed to make the event as safe as he can.

"I can promise you this, if you decide to have it I can guarantee you ... at the event itself we will do everything we can to make sure its safe and I think we can be pretty confident we can do it," Beach said. He went on to add that he couldn't promise the same thing before and after the event.

There is concern about the group of people Three 6 Mafia will attract to campus if they

play. Beach pointed out he cannot control what happens when the sun goes down and students move to place like Buffalo St. to gather and socialize.

The Black Student Association (BSA) representative for the SGA, Savannah Ducre, said her organization did not feel like it was the appropriate time to bring this group in. She added that maybe next year, when things calm down a bit, it might be something to consider. Sullivan said there is a possibility the music group will be removed from the line up. Student representatives from SGA and Mortar Board, as well as administrators including Vice President of Student Affairs Dr.

Tim Pierson, Chief Beach, and Sullivan will meet to put together everyone concerns and figure out where to go from here. They will meet this afternoon (Wed., Sept. 22) to make a decision.

Sullivan explained what would happen if the group is canceled. Since the group has already been contracted, Mortar Board will still have to pay the over \$11,000 fee to Three 6 Mafia, even if they do not come. Sullivan also said canceling Three 6 Mafia would end the show around 8:30 p.m. on Saturday night.

In order to avoid the show ending early, Sullivan said they would like to fill that spot with another group. She said they would need the support of the SGA because Mortar Board had already spent their budget for the bands. She said a headliner group would be around \$10,000. while other groups cost about \$5,000.

At press time, the issue had not been brought to Mortar Board as a whole. "We are going to have to make the best decision with the best interest in the safety and security of our students," said Sullivan. The SGA voted as to whether or not they wanted to support bring-SEE 'SUPPORT' PG. 6



#### One Year Later:



A look back at the quadruple homicide Pages 8 & 9

#### **Mortar Board Wins Award**



Page 3

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#### Open Forum on Campus & Community

Forum held in Blackwell Hall enlightens concerns about streetlights, text messaging, and others

Laura Beth Stricker Copy Editor

On Mon., Sept. 20, a large number of students, faculty and staff gathered in Blackwell Hall for an Open Forum on Campus & Community Safety. The forum was organized in large part due to the recent spike in robberies and assaults on campus and throughout the Town of Farmville. There was a panel of six representatives that covered both the campus and the community: Student Government Association (SGA) President Ben Brittain, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Tim Pierson, Longwood President Patrick Finnegan, the Town of Farmville Manager Gerry Spates, Longwood Chief of Police Bob Beach, and Farmville Chief of Police Doug Mooney. These gentlemen all gave opening remarks, facilitated the panel and responded to all questions that were posed by those in attendance

Each of the six representatives gave a short introduction or briefing to the audience. Finnegan said it was "both an individual and group responsibility to stay safe." Spates said, "I've been the Town Manager here since 1975. We've moved from

1,600 female students to over 4,200 students. Please raise any questions that you may have."

Three 6 Mafia

Beach reiterated he feels very strongly that Longwood is "the safest campus in the Commonwealth," but times have changed and we have entered a new era. He gave a short briefing to the crowd, beginning with an update on the assault on the male student outside of the Cunninghams Residence Hall on Sun., Aug. 29. One arrest has been made, with the person having been charged with assault by mob, which is a Class III felony. The police department has also interviewed one juvenile who has admitted to being involved in this incident.

Mooney echoed Beach's statements, as well as gave a short briefing. He assured the audience that "work is being done" to solve these cases. Mooney said, "After 22-plus years in Chesterfield County, you have a safe community here." He gave an update on Richard Samuel Alden McCroskey III, who entered a guilty plea agreement Monday afternoon in Farmville. He received four life sentences, two of which do not have the possibility of parole. McCroskey was convicted of two counts

of first-degree murder in the cases of Melanie Wells and Dr. Debra Kelley, and two counts of capital mur-

der in the cases of Emma and Mark Niederbrock. Mooney also gave the audience an update on the more recent crimes that have occurred throughout the month of September. Charges have been filed in the robbery at gunpoint case on Park Avenue which occurred on Wed., Sept. 1. Three men were apprehended following the Thurs., Sept. 9 incident involving the robbery of a Papa John's pizza deliveryman. In the most recent case, the Sun., Sept. 12 incident on Grove St. where a Longwood student was assaulted, there is a strong lead. Mooney emphasized for people to "keep your eyes open" and "walk in pairs or groups."

Brittain went to the podium and said he believes these recent incidents have "increased student awareness," but he wanted to stress that people "should not act on emotions." Brittain said, "Don't destroy the brotherhood and sisterhood at Longwood . . . and community trust. Call the police for the right reasons" and "Let's come together as a campus community."

SEE 'FORUM' PG. 2

Corey Morris

### Longwood's Bookstore in a Changing

books at the bookstore were sim- codes for exclusive online mate-

ply "too expensive." Hess is not rial, bundling additional mate-

alone. For many students, buying rial, and a steady stream of new

textbooks online is more afford- editions raise prices by making

able than buying them at a univerity difficult for students to return

At the Tues., Sept. 21 meeting of the Student Government Associa-

tion (SGA), \$410.20 was allocated to the Red Flag Campaign walk.

The purpose of the walk is to spread the word out about sexual

and domestic violence. The idea of the walk came from the incident

that occurred at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Stu-

dent-athlete George Huguely murdered his girlfriend Yeardley Love,

who was also a student-athlete. It was later revealed he abused her.

The walk is part of a national campaign to raise awareness at univer-

sities and colleges. If Longwood goes forward with the walk, it will

be one of the first, if not the first university to have a full-fledged walk.

Gov. Bob McDonnell just passed that every school can receive the

campaign free of charge from the state budget. Abigail Phillips came to

the SGA to ask for some monetary support to bring the walk to our cam-

pus. The extra money helps to cover what is not allotted by the state.

Not only is the walk beneficial for supporting the cause, Longwood

would be featured on the website to show others what we are doing.

speak at the meeting about a possible change in the Oktober-

fest line-up. More information can be found on the front page.

lar Alliance to send a student to a conference. A representa-

tive came to the SGA today to speak about that experience.

"One of the most important things I learned was that I learned a lot

One of the first issues raised by students included concerns of officers

stopping students for no apparent reason. Both Beach and Mooney said

they are trying to address all concerns. Beach said, "If you're stopped,

find out who the officer is." Longwood Police wears black uniforms,

while the Town of Farmville police wear grey uniforms. Beach also

said for students to ask the officer why they're being stopped. There is

zero tolerance for racial profiling, and that many of these incidents are

misunderstandings. Mooney said to pay attention to suspicious activity

and report it. Many officers are usually responding to calls of service

when they stop people. The officers are usually attempting to clear the

suspected person(s), and trying to get to the bottom of the situation.

Another issue that was discussed was the Lancer Park Bridge

and how certain areas of off-campus housing are extremely dark at

night. On the Lancer Park Bridge, Spates said the town is currently

addressing the lighting situation. Beach reiterated to not walk alone,

and to utilize the bus service. Pierson said improvements have been

made to Buffalo St., while needs at Grove St. are being addressed.

The text messaging alert system was also addressed. Many stu-

'SAFETY FORUM' FROM PG. 1

Last year the SGA approved money for the Student Secu-

Sophomore Paul Clamp said it was a very informative event.

SGA allocated themselves the \$410.20.

walk will be sponsored by the SGA.

Director of the Student Union Susan Sullivan came to

Asst. News Editor of technology and e-commerce within the previous decade has textbook prices over the last few dramatically altered the way decades, the need to save money Americans, especially younger is not only more urgent, but the generations, buy and sell goods. A recent report from Forrester ference. A 2005 report prepared Researcher found that online re- by the Government Accounttail in the United States grew a ability Office (GOA) found that staggering 11 percent in 2009 from December 1986 to Decemalone, with sales reaching over ber 2004 textbook prices nearly \$150 billion. Improved security tripled, increasing at an average and convenience have contributed to the growing willing- was twice that of inflation (the ness of consumers to purchase Federal Government funds nearly their goods online, but perhaps half of all U.S. college students). the strongest influence involves The GOA targeted several pracone of the most basic eco- tices of publishers, known all nomic principles: lower prices. too well by current college stubuying textbooks online was an creases. The inclusion of rarely,

Nicole Dales

Editor-in-Chief

sity bookstore. Whether through established retailers such as Amazon.com, websites that list third-The Longwood University party sellers such as Half.com, Barnes and Noble bookstore is or even rental companies such as a quintessential example of a Chegg.com, students can generaltraditional industry struggling ly find textbooks that cost at least to remain relevant in an era of 50 percent less than the price digital revolution. The explosion of a new one at the bookstore.

Due to the sharp increases in amount saved makes a bigger difof six percent a year, a rate that Sophomore Brittany Hess said dents, as reasons behind the ineasy choice; the prices for text- if ever, used CD-ROMS, access

#### World and buy used books. Such prac-store, CNU will create a website

tices are known to be dubious that will offer textbook services by both students and faculty. including sales, rentals, and history, said, "What great discovery about the French Revolution

new edition every three years?" But perhaps the primary reason publishers continue to raise product offerings that no longer prices is they know students have but few alternatives than to pay for textbooks their professors require. Short on expendable cash, students find themselves flock-

ing to cheaper online retailers. The trip down to the university bookstore taken by students at the beginning of each semester may soon be lost tradition, university website. Facing fierce competition, traditional booksell-Newport University announced of investment." Not all books are in a press release last August that available to rent, but those that effective Jan. 1, 2011, there will are available cost roughly half no longer be a physical bookstore the price of a new book, whereas on campus. In place of the book- used books cost roughly three-

Student Government Association Discusses Red Flag Campaign in Meeting

Dr. James Munson, professor of buy-backs of textbooks. CNU Executive Vice President Bill Brauer acknowledged in a statein the world of academia could ment, "The college textbook inpossibly require the need for a dustry has changed dramatically and will continue to evolve into a vast array of non-traditional

require a physical bookstore." While Longwood's bookstore is unlikely to go anywhere anytime soon, there have been some changes. One behind-the-scenes change was in store management. The new store manager is Jamie Hillman, who oversaw her first textbook period this fall. In addition, she was also in charge of replaced instead by a trip to the major change at the bookstore. The bookstore now offers textbook rentals, which has thus far ers have seen their sales dry up been very successful. Recognizand university bookstores are not ing that some students have no immune. Citing changes in stu- intention of keeping a textbook dents' "buying patterns," particuat the end of the semester, textlarly "the proliferation of online book rentals, according to Hilltextbook e-tailers," Christopher man, offer students "a lower level

When something happens, we often tend to forget. Think about it. Think about a loved one who passed away. Do you remember how you felt that day? Do you remember how you promised yourself you would never ever forget who they were or how they taught you to be a good person and to life to the fullest? Too often enough when we are confronted with death in our lifetime, we

September 22, 2010

News Column

or become consumed. The majority of us lie in the first, simply pushing away the thought of a loved one passing on a few weeks at ter the fact. We are able to move on with our lives and go abou our daily business. We can wake up every morning and not be plagued with the thought of an aunt, an uncle, or a brother not be

do one of two things: Push it away

Remembering What

Counts

ng there to greet us to the day. We almost seem OK with that fact On the other hand, you have these "basket cases," I only say that because of society's stamp placed on them. You know who they are. They feel the same grief, the same pain, day after day month after month, year after year. These people are trapped They don't eat, they don't smile, and they don't live their life The extraverts become introverts. The bubbly become dull The impressive become depressed. The healthy become sick

These two types of people share the same feelings. One is just able to let go a little sooner than the other. Sure, that's not to say that certain triggers, certain moments of life tend to wreck havo on the ones we view as sane. But to say that they are like those who ive each day wondering when the pain will go away is a long shot Perhaps it's not always the person though. Maybe it's the situ

tion, the cause of the loss. Maybe it is how they were lost-

whether it be horrific in nature or horrific in timing. For the major ity, it is easy to cope with a loss when a loved one has cancer o Alzheimer's and has been going downhill for a number of years But for those who kiss their loved ones on the cheek one morning and are burying them three days later, it's a different circumstance For those who have lost a family member or loved one to any ause, it is no doubt hard news to handle. You often feel alone and ost and questioning if that will be you at that age. But that feelin doesn't last. We don't think about it all the time. It may enter ou vandering minds on occasion—a birthday, an event you know they yould have loved to attend—but it is not a constant reminder. In stead, we over look the problems and just say "Bless Their Heart." I've lost a fair number of loved ones in my twenty years, but com pared to some, I am very fortunate. I can't complain. I didn't have o grow up without caretakers such as children who lost their famil embers to a horrible car accident. I didn't spend a lifetime with prother just to watch him die of cancer. I didn't even have to endure he news of finding out one of my high school friends died at the ands of a drunk driver. No doubt, I consider myself blessed. And

or that, I thank God each and every day for what I hold close to me But then there is the opposite party. They reside where the grass sn't so green. They look at a sky that's not so blue. And why? It's because they never knew. They didn't see it coming. Death s a nightmare, creeping in the darkness, not showing a shadow One of the truest quotes I know is by Susan Cheever, who said, "Death is terrifying because it is so ordinary. It happens the time." It's such a chilling phrase. We are so atraid death because it's oh so common. We don't know what hap pens after we die, but we are so very afraid of the momen

when our clock has struck midnight it's unbearable for some

We can't stop the inevitable occurrence of death, but we can do omething to make it better. We can join those who we overlooknose we see as the "basket cases." What they do is good, as long a t is healthy. They remember the loved ones who are long gone from his earth. But even though they may be gone, they still love then as if they walk the earth still today. While we know they can neve ome back, their spirits are still here and their love is lasting forever I do not wish death upon anyone nor do I ever wish anyone must dea with losing a loved one. However, it's a matter of fact that it happens We can't control it and we can't stop it. It's God's will. But change this Change how you feel and how you remember those gone. Think abou now you felt when they left. Promise to never forget them and how they taught you to be a good person and live the best life you can. Jusmember them. Even though they're gone, their memory still counts

why a campus text message alert will be activated if it is an "im-After the briefings, the forum was opened up to the audience. The panel emphasized they wanted to focus on students because they are here 24/7. minent, verifiable, life-threatening event." Beach went on to say

> "an alarm, an audible alert, then a simultaneous text message and email" and he wants everyone to "duck and cover when it goes off." Mooney and Beach emphasized the importance of sharing correct information so rumors do not circulate and spread fear and panic. Beach said

> more about the National Secular Alliance and what they do," he

said. Clamp went on to say that the group had come up with more

ideas about what they can do and have several events planned

lar to groups such as Chi Alpha and InterVarsity Christian Fel-

lowship, but the difference is this club has atheists, agnostics, etc.

plaint a student made about teacher evaluations. She was concerned

about professors receiving the handwritten evaluations, and she

wanted them to only receive the typed print outs to avoid handwrit-

ing recognition. Pierson agreed, prompting Senator Keenan Crump

take it to the Academic Affairs committee, which he is the chair

Another concern brought forward as the lack of light-

ing in Lancer Park. This is another issue that is being looked

into, seeing as safety concern is a high priority at Longwood

on. SGA president Ben Britain, Pierson, Longwood President Gen-

eral Patrick Finnegan, Town Manager Gerald Spates, Longwood

Chief of Police Bob Beach, and Farmville Chief of Police Doug

Mooney sat on the panel. See the front page for more information

completed. They are trying to make the Judicial Board con-

stitution and the SGA constitution for Judicial Board match.

The Geist chapter of Mortar Board is hosting a book drive for Prince Edward

Elementary School. They will be collecting donations through the week.

Freshman elections for class council start on Monday on Blackboard.

The next SGA meeting will be held on

Sept. 28 at 3:45 p.m., location TBD.

The second reading of the Judicial Board constitution was

The Open Forum on Campus and Community Safety was touched

During the open forum, Senator Brian Reid brought up a com-

In order to clear up confusion he explained the club is simi-

Finnegan and other members of the panel believe these recent incidents have all been "crimes of opportunity." Therefore, they continued to emphasize the importance of situational awareness. One female faculty member held up her phone in the audience and stressed no one should text message and walk, and don't listen to your iPod at night. Another faculty member promoted the Rape, Aggression, and Defense (RAD) classes starting in November. Beach, responding to a question about security cameras, reported that phase I of an extensive surveillance policy and upgrade has been completed There are currently surveillance cameras installed in all residence

this applies to both approaching and occurred events on campus If the alarm system is activated, Beach said the campus will hear

the Longwood police have doubled its staff, all smart and understanding They stressed to the audience to "properly utilize the resources we have."

dents were concerned that students were not notified of the recent hall lobbies. Pending more state money, the other three phases inrobberies and assaults via text message. Beach said the only reasons clude plans to transfer 45 other cameras to the IP network, and even-

tually install cameras on Brock Commons and in campus parking lots. Longwood officers are encouraged to stop in all residence halls that they walk by to talk to the desk aides and Resident Assistants.

Brittain wrapped up the 45-minute forum by encouraging students to come to the SGA with any other questions or concerns, and that we, as a campus and community, need to keep working together to ensure continued safety and unity among Longwood and Farmville.

### Mulligan's Change of Staff Causes Problems for WMLU Radio Station

Rotunda Reporter

Tuesday nights are a big deal for WMLU 91.3 FM, Longwood University's radio station. Last semester, students would gather at Mulligan's Bar & Grill on High Street, just across the road from French Residence Hall, and participate in Trivia Night. This is a game put on by the radio station where up to six people, Longwood students and Farmville residents alike, can answer questions in various categories and win money. Teams pay one dollar per person to play and they receive points for answering correct questions. The team that wins the trivia challenge gets the accumulated amount of money each team paid to play, with the exception of the second place team that wins its money back.

"The main plus about Trivia Night," says WMLU Trivia Night Director Darlene Rogers, "is that it not only benefits the station with getting knowledge out to the town and the Longwood community about our presence and about what we do for Longwood, but it boosts business in Farmville."

A new change in Mulligan's management could change all of that very soon. Carlos Holland, who was the manager of Mulligan's last

year, left the business during the summer for a new venue in town.

"I was not informed in any means of his departure," said Rogers. The new manager, who was unable to be reached by press time, declined to allow anyone under the age of 21 to participate in the Trivia Night event. The change has put a damper on the station and plans for this semester's Trivia Night.

Senior Sarah Hicks thinks the management's decision can be justified. "The management could have decided to stop the event possibly due to talk with cops because businesses get fined if they are lots of minors at Mulligan's during this particular time and day and be interested and want to come back again and again." that beer is being served, that could cause problems for the restaurant which may have led to the under twenty-one rule being in effect this semester." Hicks alluded to the rule that requires those under 21 to use the patio area at Mulligan's during peak time of bar use.

Hicks said that a good thing about the location is "the short walking distance from the campus." She continued to say the team aspect of the event was something to re-

member. "It makes you feel like a part of something big." With Mulligan's possibly out of the equation, WMLU now has plans to host the event at Grady's BBQ, located upstairs from Mulligan's. While Rogers said that it is not a big change of location, the event will be run a bit differently. "If we go to Grady's as planned, people of all ages will be able to attend as long as they are over eighteen, which shouldn't be an issue." She added that while it's just a simple walk upstairs from Mulligan's, the change in atmosphere would certainly be different. Junior Allyson Johnson agreed with Rogers. "It will found serving alcohol to minors. So if cops are aware that there are bring more people to the event and maybe people will

## **News Briefs**

Compiled by Corey Morris

*The Rotunda* Pg. 3

#### **Longwood Summer Literacy Institute Earns Recognition**

FARMVILLE, Va.—Longwood University's Summer Literacy In stitute has earned a national commendation from The Affiliate Assembly of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). according to a press release from the university. The program i one of only six that received recognition from the ASSL. The commendation recognized the Institute's support of ASSL standard and program guidelines and principles of their mission statement The 2010 Summer Literacy Institute, now in its seventh year, attracted more than 170 educators from across the Commonwealth and covered topics including reading aloud, fluency, storytelling oral tradition, and readers' theatre. The event is cosponsored by the Literacy and Culture and School Library Media graduate programs in the College of Education and Human Services. Co-directors of the program are Dr. Church and Dr. Jeannine Perry, assistant dean of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies and associate professor and coordinator of the Literacy and Culture Program.

#### More Robbers Strike Near **VCU Campus**

RICHMOND, Va. — Armed robbers struck four times in a 15-minut period near the northwestern tip of Virginia Commonwealth University's (VCU) Monroe Park campus on Sat., Sept. 18. The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported two of the victims were VCU students. including a woman who was knocked to the ground and beaten. She was taken to Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital for treatment after assisting police in the investigation. The perpetrators are still at large.

The latest robberies come two weeks after another VCU student was beaten and robbed on Fri., Sept. 3 on Grove Avenue. The male student in that incident was not seriously injured and an arrest was made. The university police department said no robberies have been reported on the Monroe Park campus since April and total Richmond robberies have decreased by eight percent this year. From Jan.1-Sept. 16, 412 robberies occurred, down from 447 last year. In each of the VCU robberies on Sept. 18. the suspects demanded cash and cell phones. Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers at (804) 780-1000.

#### **Busch Gardens Announces Two New Attractions**



The Big Bad Wolf was closed in July of 2009

WILLIAMSBURG, Va.—In an announcement Sat., Sept. 18, of ficials at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg said they are planning construction for two new rides for next year. WDBJ7-TV (Roanoke, Va.) reported the theme park, which has a sister park in Florida, has yet to release any details surrounding the replacement ride for the recently retired Big Bad Wolf, except for the fact that it will be a "multi-launching, high-speed, electromagnetic" rollercoaster. The area where the Wolf once was will reopen in 2010

The Germany section of the park will open next year with new ride, the Mach Tower, which will include a 246-foot drop. The attraction will feature thirty seats attached to a rotating ring that will reach sixty miles per hour on its return from the sky back to the ground. The ride will be the largest in the park.

Water Country USA, located beside Busch Gardens, will feature a new attraction as well in 2011. Vanish Point, a single tower that will have four water slides at 75 feet tall and 300 feet long will be one of the largest attractions at the water park.

#### **Students Protest Over Male** on Homecoming Queen Ballot

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Va.—A student at David Crockett High School in Washington County put his name on the bal lot for homecoming queen, the only position students elect during the annual celebration. The student, who has not been named reportedly signed the ballot since the king position does not exist at the school. He said he did not want to simply be an escort picked by the female queen. Tricities.com reported Assistant Director of Schools for Attendance and Discipline in the county James Murphy said the department could not do anything about the student's name being on the ballot. He added the school's policy did not define the queen position as something held only by a female.

The apparent loophole gave students an opening to protest the elec tion for hours last week, declaring the position is meant to be for a female, even if it's not directly stated in the election rules. More than a dozen students participated in the protest. After the results were tallied on Friday, Murphy said the male student did not receive the number of votes needed to be homecoming queen. Murphy also said the protestors could receive punishment for disrupting the school day

## Mortar Board Receives National Recognition

The Geist chapter of Mortar Board at Longwood University was among 77 other chapters that received an honor for excellence at the 2010 Mortar Board National Conference, held July 23-25 in Chicago, Ill. Longwood's chapter has received the Silver Torch Award for the sixth time The award is presented to chapters meeting chapter management standards while exhibiting the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service. Chapter President Jennifer Maynard and Vice President of

Service Rachel Cipolla were on hand to accept the award The Geist chapter received the award in 2001 and from 2005-2008. In 2002 and 2006, they also received a Project Excellence Award from the Mortar Board National Chapter. "It's really good to stay on that track because we don't want to go behind that track," said Maynard Since Mortar Board's founding in 1918, the organization has grown from the four founding chapters to 228 chartered collegiate chapters,

with nearly a quarter of a million initiated members across the nation. It serves as the premier national honor society for college seniors. The Geist chapter at Longwood was chartered in 1993 and currently has around 38 members, according to Maynard. It is best known as

the sponsor for Oktoberfest, an annual celebration of Longwood spirit. Maynard explained some of the standards that are required to receive the award include paperwork submission, acceptable grade-point average (GPA) levels for all members and that the organization must be in good standing with the university and national chapter. She said not every chapter receives the award

Acceptance into Geist requires a student to have at least a 3.0 GPA and be devoted to the organization's three main principles. "The thing that's different about Mortar Board is it is a senior honors organization," said Maynard when comparing Geist to other honor organizations on campus. She said many new members relatively know anything about the organization and it is a "learn as you go" system. "Getting the award was

an awesome feeling," she said. "I think everyone was very excited."

Maynard said the organization received a certificate in recognition. While the chapter has received numerous Silver Torch awards, Maynard said the next step is a Gold Torch, given to one school that exhibits outstanding and above average dedication. "That's our goal for this year." Mortar Board is currently in the midst of their national project for this year. It's called the "Stuff the Bus" and it involves collecting gently

used books that will go to Prince Edward County Elementary School

Cipolla (left) and Maynard (right) accept their award

(PECES). Books or money may be dropped off in the Lankford Student Union and at other locations and events around campus and Farmville. The book collection will continue until Sat., Oct. 2 where they will be presented to the PECES school librarian and principal. It's the first year for the project, but Maynard said it will become an annual event. She also discussed the organization's plans to honor retiring professors for next year. This spring, they plan to hold "Last Lecture" presentations, where a professor will give their last lecture to students, telling them what they have learned at Longwood and what they hope students have learned. The biggest thing, according to Maynard, is making peo-

ple know that Mortar Board is more than just Oktoberfest. Senior and Mortar Board Secretary Callie Darling said, "It shows the new direction Mortar Board tries to head in." She said, "We are trying to prove that at our campus, we're just the people that organize Oktoberfest. It's a new mindset." Mortar Board provides opportunities for continued leadership development, promotes service to colleges and universi-

ties and encourages lifelong contributions to the global community. Some notable Mortar Board members include distinguished politician Condoleezza Rice and Super Bowl MVP Drew Brees.

#### University's ITTIPProgramReceives State Technology Award

News Editor

Longwood University's Institute for Teaching through Technology and Innovative Practices (ITTIP), with its partner the Southside Virginia Regional Technology Consortium (SVRTC), has received a technology award for its mutual learning opportunities for teachers and students in Southside Virginia The ITTIP was one of two winners in the Innovation in Higher Education category in the Governor's Technology Awards, presented Sept. 7 at the 2010 Commonwealth of Virginia's Innovative Technology Symposium in Richmond. The award was presented by Virginia Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling and accepted by Dr. Manorama (Mano) Talaiver, ITTIP director; Bill Wilson, SVRTC senior technology engineer; Dr. Deneese Jones, dean of the College of Education and Human Services; and Dr. Ken Perkins, interim vice president for academic affairs. There were a total of thir-

teen winners in six categories in the Governor's Technology Awards. The ITTIP, founded in 1999 by Longwood, is a K-12 educational outreach of the university that helps teachers integrate technology and distributes research-based best practices in schools. It is based in South Boston, Va, and housed inside the College of Education and Human Services on campus. It serves 35 school divisions in Central and Southside Virginia. The ITTIP since 2007 has worked with students. many from low-income backgrounds, to explore careers related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) through game design. Longwood has been SVRTC's administrative agent since 2000.

The award was based on the ITTIP's and SVRTC's ongoing work of implementing and demonstrating the effective use of a wide range of technological tools and applications in needed and rural schools in the region. Such tools include interactive videoconferencing, web conferencing; virtualization, Moodle, an open-source content man-

agement system; and Elgg, an open-source social networking engine. The SVRTC, established in 1995 under the fiscal agency of the Dinwiddie County School Division, represents 25 school divisions located in Southside Virginia. These include Patrick County on the West to Franklin City on the East side, and up to Amelia County on the North side.

"Our mission statement charges us with identifying new and emerging technology and determining its benefit to education. Technology may then be piloted and, if proven to be successful in addressing a specific need, utilized in K-12 education," said Talaiver in an email. Wilson said the consortium benefits thanks to the research performed by the ITTIP. The research helps "identify crucial areas of need within the K-12 system." Wilson said, "This relationship allows Longwood to use their professional faculty to provide valuable training for our K-12 teachers thereby improving student achievement in K-12 education and subsequently having a desired positive effect on Virginia's economic development." The SVRTC advisory

council meets monthly to discuss the findings from ITTIP research. "The award tells us and that others agree that we are on the right track and are making progress. Ultimately, that is our goal. Earning the Governor's award gave both our consortium and the ITTIP well earned recognition. Together the ITTIP and SVRTC have been awarded grants and conducted numerous projects, but all while operating on limited funding and staff," said Wilson. He added the two entities help represent a "cost effective" fix to educational problems in Southside

Jones said, "We are honored to receive this award because it is symbolic of our strong commitment to provide services to the K-12 schools within the Southside region." Jones continued, "As a unit of the College of Education and Human Services, it is a very deliberate way that we contribute to the professional development in technology that is needed for educators as we strive to meet the needs of 21st century learners."

## Obesity Focus of Latest Blackwell Talks

Corey Morris

professor of exercise science, gave a talk on Mon. Sept. 20 as part of Longwood University's Blackwell Talks, a series that showcases faculty research in the Virginia Room of Blackwell Hall. Roy's presentation was entitled "Fearing Physical Inactivity More Than Obesity: A New Perspective," and is a field she has conducted research on for many years and "loves to discuss." Roy, in her twelfth year at Longwood, began her presentation with a video from the popular television program "The Simpsons." The clip featured Homer Simpson, the overweight main character, at the doctor's office receiving a body fat check. To administer the test, the doctor jiggled Simpson's belly, a humorous scene that continued until the end of the

clip and received laughs from faculty and staff in attendance. The presentation was broken into three parts. The first focused on society's crusade against

ing off fat from the body. Mepaigns have targeted meat eaters, soda drinkers, and depicted

"We are also getting, unfortuconfusing messages out there," she said. Roy said the media is now telling consumers that exercise is not as good as professionals used to believe. Instead, products are promoted and diets are seen as the new fat buster.

obesity. "Millions of Americans the myths and misconceptions in maintaining a healthy insulin stepped on the scale this morn-regarding obesity. She said the level. This breakthrough helps

day," Roy said. She explained ten misinterpreted. "Nowhere one of the most important parts to media's role in the crusade and in [the BMI] does it take body life and can help your body even how fat is always portrayed as fat into account," said Roy. In- if weight loss isn't immediate. something bad. Roy discussed stead, the BMI scale simply one of the newest procedures in measures the proportionality dence out there ... that we can the battle against the bulge, re- between a person's weight and normalize a lot of these health cently featured in Wall Street their height. Obesity is simply factors without losing weight," Journal, which involves freez- the amount of excess body fat. said Roy. She said the preva-

volved explaining how some of fit? "Because diets don't work." the ideas developed are sometimes In her conclusion, Roy proposed through the years from fat belts proved their insulin sensitivity by shake weight to pass around. author of this study showed that Roy also spoke about some of exercise, not fat loss, was the key relying on things such as technol-

ing and that will dictate their body mass index (BMI) is of- back those who say exercise is

"I think there's enough evi-The idea among the majority lence of obesity and dieting is dia's role isn't just limited to of people in society is that obe-positively related. In the 1960s, that, however. Recent ad cam-sity is a major health risk. Health research sowed about fifteen perprofessionals even preach that cent of Americans were obese. atherosclerosis, where fat is col- Now, about a quarter are conoverweight people as whales, en- lected along the artery walls, is sidered in that bracket. She also couraging people to "save" them. linked to obesity. In fact, Roy was rather tough on diets, which sees the majority of these prob- 70 million people try each year. nately, a lot of contradictory and lems as caused by a poor diet. She questioned if so many peoand a lack of physical activity. ple try the \$35 billion market Part two of Roy's speech in- each year, why isn't everyone

not all they are cracked up to be. a need to refocus efforts, since di-She talked about one of the most ets aren't working. "It's all about telling parts of her research—in- being more active," she said. The She took those in attendance sulin sensitivity in the body. She true culprit to her is the fact that through a visual history of fat- said in a 2005 study, subjects most people do not receive the reducing tools and techniques who gained body fat actually im- proper amount of recommended moderate-vigorous physical acto finger rings and all the way the same amount as subjects who tivity. To increase those numbers, to tapeworms. She even had a lost weight through the study. The she called for intensity to be rediscovered and for people to stop

SEE 'BLACKWELL' PG. 6

Longwood University September 22, 2010 *The Rotunda* Pg. 4

# R.A.D Program Is Back at Longwood Rape Aggression Defense classes will be offered on campus in an effort to teach women self-dependency.

Brooke Brennan Features Editor

The R.A.D program is taught at schools all over the country, including Longwood, through courses offered for women only. The official R.A.D. website said, "It is a program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques for women" who are faced in rape or abduction related cases. It also stated that the class instructors teach "awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance" and women eventually learn "the basics of hands-on defense training."

On Tues., Sept. 28, R.A.D. instructors will hold an interest meeting at 7 p.m. in the Lankford Student Union Ballroom for female students. Acting Sergeant with the LU Police Department, Ray Ostrander, and Jennifer Huddleston, apartment manager and LU alumnus will be two of the five R.A.D. program instructors at the meeting. Both strongly encouraged all females to go.

According to Huddleston, the program teaches you how to successfully defeat a perpetrator in an abduction or rape scenario and how to avoid these situations in general. She said the key elements involved are learning "using your voice properly by yelling instead of screaming at a perpetrator and learning to be extremely aware of your surroundings," but that other basic knowledge and techniques will be taught in the beginning of the program.

The R.A.D. program will consist of three different phases: lecture, tactics, and simulation. Huddleston explained that the lecture portion will re-enforce essential tips to staying safe that are often times ignored: shutting blinds, closing curtains, locking doors and windows, walking in groups and well-lit areas, and many more. She said the simulation portion allows participants to apply the basic knowledge and techniques learned from the previphases, in realistic replications of dangerous encounters.

During the simulation classes, Ostrander and Huddleston said students will dress in provided outfits, use bags for blocking techniques, practice knee-lift kicks, and will have to go through different scenarios played out by themselves and the instructors.

Ostrander said, "It's an adrenaline rush because it makes you feel like you're actually in the situation, and that's what it's meant to do. A lot of people realize they're stronger than they think." The simulation meetings will be held in the basement of French, where Ostrander said they have "wrestling mats on the floor and padded walls."

He added, "Students who have gone through simulation said that it's been their best experience," and the program can really help anyone. Although rape is not a widely reported topic, Ostrander encouraged women who have previously dealt with rape-related issues to "come forward." He said the program includes counseling services for those who need or want the confidential support.

One aspect about the program that most will find encouraging and helpful is the flexibility between all five instructors. Although the assigned courses are recommended, Huddleston and Ostrander stressed their willingness to create private lessons for different groups, separate from the designated courses.

Both Huddleston and Ostrander said, "If you don't feel comfortable attending a class with people you don't know, then get a group of girlfriends together and contact us. We'll arrange convenient class times for your group." Whether it's a group of your sorority sisters, an office department, members of a club, a mix of friends, or you and your hall-mates, the R.A.D team will make sure you receive the separate lessons. Ostrander said, "With five instructors, we can help everyone."

Ostrander noted, "This year I want to encourage more female faculty staff members to take this class because we have some [faculty and staff members] who are here at all hours, late at night, and we want to encourage them to get together and take these classes."

After being through the program as an undergraduate, and taking lessons to become an instructor, Huddleston said, "I think every woman should take it. I know that the empowerment you get is amazing. It's very beneficial."

Huddleston and Ostrander are expecting the R.A.D program to be a 12-hour course, and encourage participants to attend all lessons. However, Huddleston said, "At anytime if someone decides it's not for them, they definitely don't have to do it." They both said the program will most likely consist of a class once a week for four consecutive weeks, and that each class will be three hours long.

The instructors are aiming to host the course from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., or 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., however these times are not set in stone. Huddleston said the program is offered in November, February, and March, but that more times could be added depending on the amount of interest shown at the meeting. The instructors want an even number of people in order to properly conduct the lessons.

There will be posters hanging around campus this week, instructors at the police department, as well as information on LU Police's Facebook page and on their homepage. Interested students can also contact Ostrander and Huddleston directly at ostranderr@longwood.edu or huddlestonjm@longwood.edu. Ostrander said there has been a lot of interest so far, and those who participated in the program last year "can come back anytime."

## Yellow Ribbon Campaign Awareness

Jamie Clift Asst. Features Editor

The small yellow card read, "3.7 percent of adults in the U.S. had serious thoughts, 2.3 million made a plan, and 1.1 million actually attempted suicide in the past year." These cards were handed out in the name of the Yellow Ribbon Campaign, an organization that supported its fourteenth National Suicide Prevention Week from Sept. 5-11.

Yellow ribbons, which could be seen pinned to several book bags and shirts around campus, were attached to cards and given to students. The cards also provided the numbers for Campus Police and the LU Counseling Center for those who might be contemplating suicide or felt that someone they knew was in danger of doing so.

The Student Health and Wellness Center sponsored the campaign. The office provided the cards and posted more information about the subject on its website in addition to the information that was posted in the Stall News as of Wed., Sept. 15. The site urges Longwood students to remember that they are not alone and to get help for themselves or their friends.

The site also provides shocking statistics about suicide and college students from the American College Health Association, "1 in 10 has seriously considered suicide." Almost half have reported "feeling so depressed that it was difficult to function." The brief Stall News article provided similar information, in addition signs that a friend might be suicidal, including substance abuse, anxiety, withdrawal, and anger. One of the people most responsible for making

The Yellow Ribbon Campaign possible at LU is Longwood's Wellness Coordinator Sasha Gregory, who graduated from Longwood in 2005 Despite a very limited budget, and with the help of a few concerned students, Gregory was able to bring suicide prevention week to the attention of many Longwood students. She has encouraged the campus to wear their ribbons all month

"Suicide prevention is important and needed in the community," said Gregory. "It has recently been an issue... and it is important to address it and show our support."

Despite the amount of help provided by Gregory, who actually donated the ribbons, as well the Health and Wellness Center, which was the source of all of the ink and yellow paper that went into this project, it was the students who really made it happen. The Wellness Center is largely focused on student wants and concerns. It was because students cared about this issue that the campaign was possible

"We need student support and leadership for these causes," Gregory urged. With so many important causes out there that deserve our attention, she and the rest of the staff at the Wellness Center can surely not do it all

#### Five-Star Taxi: A Look Inside The One-man Duty

Rebecca Lundberg Asst. Copy Editor

The bus may be free for Longwood students, but are the stresses of catching it on time and never knowing when you'll arrive at your destination worth it? If not, there's another affordable option that's a bit more reliable than the Farmville Area Bus (FAB) and much safer than hitchhiking.

PeeWee Baldwin's Five-Star Taxi began running in October 2009 and has been transporting Longwood students and locals all around the Farmville area ever since. The number fixe is a running theme in Baldwin's business; for just that many dollars, he will drive any one anywhere in the entire town of Farmville. Where else can you find private, air-conditioned convenience for the same price as a Subway five-dollar foot-long?

Baldwin lived in Farmville throughout his childhood and never felt the desire to leave. "I love living in such a tight-knit community," Baldwin said, "But it's both a blessing and a curse. Everybody knows everybody. While I like walking down the street and recognizing most of the people I see, word gets around fast. There isn't a lot of privacy."

The Longwood University Post Office, where Baldwin has been working since 2002, is the perfect escape from the small-town atmosphere. "I love working with students," Baldwin said. "It really keeps me young." His taxi helps him develop an even better relationship with the students. He loves helping them get around town because he feels that they are to thank for his success. "Without Longwood, I wouldn't be in existence," he admitted, "I am so grateful for the loyalty of the students."

But operating the Five-Star Taxi in addition to putting in hours at the post office isn't without its frustrations. Baldwin noted, "I love driving the taxi, but it's basically a one-man job." He said, "My fiancée [Ellen Masters] helps with the business side of things, which really helps. But weekends are busy and I know that I will have to expand my business in the future." Baldwin hopes to eventually buy another taxi and hire another driver.

Baldwin's busy schedule does have its benefits when it comes to time management. "Time is more special when I have so little of it," Baldwin said. "Ellen and I are always happy to see each other." Baldwin and Masters plan to wed next month at/Winterham Plantation in Amelia, Va. "We were looking for a place to hold the wedding and kind of found it by accident," he revealed. Baldwin said, "We called the owners and set up a tour, and as soon as it was over, we knew it was where we wanted to get married." The couple's friends from the local restaurant The Dutch Rabbit are catering the event. He said, "I feel so lucky to have such great people involved in my wedding." His coworkers and close friends from the post office have prime spots on the guest list.

The Five-Star Taxi runs from 5 p.m. to 12 a.m. Monday through Thursday, and 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. on weekends. Baldwin can always be reached at 434-547-3355. More information can be found on Five-Star Taxi's official Facebook page.

## Recruitment: A Different Story for Fraternities and Sororities

Kevin Green Rotunda Reporter

"Go Greek!" is a phrase that students see over and over again throughout their college career. The Greeks have become an ever-growing part of this campus. But, the question remains: How does one "Go Greek?""

The process actually varies for both fraternities and sororities. For example, most fraternities do not contain a quota. According to senior and Sigma Nu brother Tony Riley, it really does not matter. They are not really aiming for a number.

For fraternities it is a bit informal. Some chapters will host open houses, while others will use social functions. There is no one set way fraternities go about their business. Sophomore and Sigma Nu brother Aaron Taylor said, "We really like to get guys out and just hang out with us." It is up to the fraternities to recruit new members in the fall. This is largely due to the fact that freshmen cannot pledge until spring semester. Then the campus steps in and it is much more structured.

The numbers for all fraternity's fall recruitment were a bit down. For example, in Sigma Nu, they have only 17 participants this fall compared to the 25 they had may be due to the lack of recruitment-related events in the fall. The one event held called "First Friday Back," showed little attendance. According to Riley, "No one came really. It was just [fraternity] brothers." It certainly was not a much-publicized event.

Despite this, Riley thinks it is getting better. He said, "You have to have better grades [to pledge]." Indeed, the GPA requirements for Sigma Nu have spiked a bit. It used to be a 2.25 and it is now a 2.5. Even still, both Riley and Taylor agree that there is more that can be done in the fall.

On the flip side, it is a completely different story for the girls. The College Panhellenic Council's (CPC) formal recruitment for girls is in the spring. In the fall, the whole process is structured even before everyone arrives for school. The VP of Recruitment for each CPC chapter meets with Associate Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, Kathryn Planow, during the spring semester to schedule open houses.

Alpha Sigma Alpha President Samantha Steuber said, "They're set so far in advance to make sure that everyone knows there's enough time to advertise." Each chapter gets their own day and time slot so that

in the spring of 2007. Some of it girls have the opportunity to see everything. Due to this, Stueber said it is recommended that the girls keep an open mind.

> As far as numbers, Planow stated that, "Total on this campus is 55." This means that the maximum number of girls a CPC sorority can reach is 55 in the fall. In the spring, they can exceed 55 only if it is by quota. Quota is a completely different thing. It is the total number of girls who finish the formal recruitment process divided by the number of CPC sororities (which is eight). If quota is met in the spring, then the total number of girls can exceed 55.

In the spring, recruitment takes place during one weekend. Planow describes the weekend as, "A process of mutual selection." Once again the girls visit all of the chapters and make a list of their "favorites." That list gets cut down until the end of the weekend. It is one big matching game. In the end, it is all about trying to get matched up. It is possible that girls receive one match or none at all. By contrast, girls can receive as many bids as possible in the fall.



Question: What is your favorite athletic sport to watch on campus?

Jordan Maupin, junior: "Definitely basketball. A lot of students go to the games and get into them. You can really feel the energy from them."



Daniel Pennesi, sophomore: "Probably rugby."



Meghan Greene, junior: "Baseball! I grew up watching my brothers play ball and I understand the sport."





Emma Coombs, junior: "Basketball, because I just enjoy watching it in general. I feel like more people here at school go to basketball games so they're a lot more fun."

This segment features a Longwood-pertinent question answered by a random sample of students. Send suggestions to the rotundaonline@gmail.com.