

The Return da



More SPORTS Coverage, pg. 11



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LU 'Graciously' Joins Big South

Timeline of Events Leading to Big South Announcement

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- Nov. 12, 2002
Dr. Patricia Cormier (LU President) informs NCAA of intent to reclassify to Division I
- Aug. 2003
NCAA approves move into first year of reclassification.
- Sept. 1, 2004
Full compliance with all Division I legislation and membership requirements
- Sept. 2005
Longwood begins its Division I certification self-study
- Sept. 15-16, 2006
Men's golf competes in the school's first official Division I event at Rutgers University
- Sept. 25-27, 2006
NCAA peer review team visits campus to conduct certification evaluation
- April 9, 2007
NCAA approves Longwood self-study process as successfully completed
- May 2007
Men's golf earns invitation and competes in school's first NCAA post-season competition
- July 11, 2007
NCAA approves Longwood for Division I active membership during 2007-08
- Sept. 1, 2007
Longwood begins competition as officially certified Division I member
- Nov. 2008-Mar. 2009
Men's basketball compiles 17-14 record in D-I play
- Dec. 1, 2010
First televised home men's basketball game against James Madison University
- Nov. 14, 2011
Men's soccer wins Atlantic Soccer Conference (ASC) Championship
- September 2007-2011
Longwood athletics tallies an overall record of 564-552-27
- Jan. 23, 2012
President Patrick Finnegan announces intention to join the Big South Conference effective July 1

TIMELINE COMPILED BY: PETER MANCUSO AND BEN MAITLAND

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BEN MAITLAND Sports Editor

Longwood University is a Division I Independent no more. On Monday, Jan. 23, the university announced a move to the Big South Conference effective July 1 of this year. The announcement was made in front of a large crowd of students, faculty and media in Blackwell Hall on campus. Longwood President Patrick Finnegan

--Longwood Director of Athletics Troy Austin speaks to local media about LU joining the Big South.

Photo By: Stephen Hudson

"graciously" accepted the invitation to join the conference from Big South and Radford University President Penelope Kyle. Finnegan placed a Big South pin on the lapel of his suit coat to symbolize Longwood's acceptance of the invitation.

"I'm ecstatic," said Finnegan after the announcement was made. "This is something we have been aiming at for a long while. One of the priorities when I became president was to get us a conference affiliation. I thought we needed to do that for a Division I program. The Big South is the right conference for us."

Five special VIPs spoke during the event: President Kyle, President Finnegan, Longwood University Board of Visitors Rector Marjorie Connelly, Big South Conference Commissioner Kyle B. Kallander and Longwood Director of Athletics Troy Austin.

"Longwood University will be an outstanding member of the Big South Conference," said Kallander. "Longwood features strong leadership, an outstanding academic reputation and a commitment to Division I athletic success."

Austin, who has worked tirelessly to find Longwood athletics a home, said, "I'm just excited to move forward now."

"It has been a long time coming," said Connelly. "The anticipation has been there. This is a big deal that allows us to take our entire athletics program to another degree. It's a big impact on the community and the campus." Connelly also said there was a steep learning curve for the Board of Visitors and the university as a whole in terms of the process of joining a conference.

The move to the Big South will affect 13 of Longwood's 14 athletic programs. Only field hockey will not make the move, as it will remain in the Northern Pacific Field Hockey Conference. The changeover will start with the 2012-13 academic year. Longwood will be the 12th member of the conference, the most schools the Big South has ever boasted since its creation in 1983. Longwood joins Radford, Virginia Military Institute (VMI) and Liberty as the four Old See BIG SOUTH Page 11

More Blue and White Comes to Longwood's Site

COREY MORRIS News Editor

If you have visited Longwood University's homepage, longwood.edu, recently, you may have noticed a new color scheme. The new design is complemented by a blue header and footer with white space in the middle. A new featured scrolling bar also appears at the top of the homepage.

According to Director of Web Communications Dave Hooper, the change is an effort to bring Longwood's site up-to-date with some of the modern web trends. Hooper said that so far, he has only received positive feedback from the new look of the site, visited daily by current and prospective Longwood students.

Kevin Bryant, web designer/developer, explained some of the new changes that affect the aesthetic aspect of longwood.edu. For one, the width of the website, which was previously a full-width site, now has a fixed-width. Bryant said this allows for more control over how the site actually looks.

Also, the style of the site is more modern and

in-line with what other universities' websites look like and what is found on the homepages of many of popular websites across the Internet.

"The first stage of this is mostly aesthetic," said Bryant. "It's about the design." Bryant described the site as more appealing and exciting. He also said that on the World Wide Web, Longwood's site has equal features when compared to anyone else in the region.

The initial design for the new website scheme was started by one of Bryant's predecessors about a year ago. The development took place over the past month and the new scheme was unveiled over winter break.

Even though the focus now is primarily about the look of the site, Bryant said that features and functionality are also important. "We're always looking at new ways of being interactive."

There are no new features in this new Web 2.0 platform yet, but changes may be coming right around the corner. "All of this is a part of a new focus to bring our website into having a more up-to-date purpose," Bryant said.

The Web Communications Department is looking at making a push toward a more functional

mobile site to be used by students, parents and other visitors on the go. The hope is for the user's experience with Longwood's website on smart phones and other mobile devices to improve. "We're behind in the mobile space and that's something that we're going to play catch-up on," Bryant said.

Hooper said a few minor changes would take place in the upcoming weeks. A few improvements would be made to the homepage and, most likely, a restructuring of some of the homepage content will occur.

The last design change came in 2008 and was a "major overhaul," according to Bryant. This year's change affects more of the site's look, not so much its feel. That is not to say that a new feel will be absent from some of the website's changes.

Hooper said that incremental changes will occur over time, but nothing too significant would be happening. "This is all related to improving the functionality of our website," he said.

Bryant also stated, "Redesign is one facet of it. It's all about bringing all that information to the front."

Sorority Recruitment Comes to a Happy Finale with Girl's Walk

SARAH SCHMADER Asst. Layout Editor

On Sunday, Jan. 22 at 5 p.m. behind Lankford Student Union, a new crop of 123 Longwood girls ran toward a sorority that offered them a bid. After a long recruitment weekend, each girl was finally able to discover which sorority welcomed them into their sisterhood.

According to Collegiate Panhellenic Council President Whitney Beale, a total of 173 girls went through recruitment, which began Friday night. Those girls met with all eight sororities in 30-minute increments at each sorority's open house. Each girl is paired with a sister to get to know in each soror-

ity. Following the open house, each girl lists their top five sororities of their preference and rank their bottom three.

On Saturday, the girls found out who called them back, and they went to as many gatherings as call backs that they received. For instance, if a girl got a call back from Sigma Kappa, Sigma Sigma Sigma and Alpha Delta Pi, she would go to all three of their gatherings that day. That afternoon, the girls picked their top two choices.

Sunday morning is when the girls found out the top two sororities that wanted them as a new member, and again, the girls went to the gatherings of those two sororities. Following those gatherings, the girls ranked those two sororities

by preference. Next, if a girl did not get a call back by a certain time from the sororities they preferred, it meant they did not receive a bid.

Finally, on Sunday afternoon, the girls showed up to get ready for walk in the student union. The girls who received a bid were given an envelope. In that envelope was the name of the sorority that offered them a bid. Then, the ladies met their new member class and were decked out in the colors and accessories of the sorority that welcomed them as a new member. According to Beale, there was an 80 percent retention rate.

Alpha Delta Pi received 17 members, Alpha Gamma Delta, 17, Alpha Sigma Alpha, 17, Alpha Sigma Tau, seven, Delta Zeta, 18, Kappa

Delta, 18, Sigma Kappa, 18 and Sigma Sigma Sigma, 11.

Katie Holloway, a junior who ran Sigma Sigma Sigma's way on Sunday, said, "It was a thrilling experience. We had to wait in the cold anxiously hoping that we did not fall running to our new sororities. After running, we were engulfed by so much excitement and happiness."

The girls now begin their new member education process, where they learn about the history and origin of their sorority and the different Greek organizations at Longwood. The length of new member education varies from sorority to sorority, and following this process, they will become initiated members of their sisterhood.