



THE ROTUNDA

The Student Newspaper of Longwood University

McCroskey Sentenced to Life

By 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."

Bowen said McCroskey allowed his anger to get in the way. "This became an issue regarding his perception that his girlfriend wasn't being loyal to him." Bowen said there was a "deterioration" of the relationship between McCroskey and Emma. He said McCroskey plans to write a statement for the victims' families sometime this week.

"Four bodies is pretty compelling evidence," said Bowen when asked if the evidence wasn't convincing enough to allow McCroskey to plead not guilty. Bowen said the decision to accept the plea was McCroskey's and it was made after all the evidence was reviewed.

"As a participant in the criminal justice system, I am pleased," said Bowen.

Prince Edward County Commonwealth's Attorney James Ennis said McCroskey's fading relationship with Emma most likely lead to her murder. He said when McCroskey was asked why he

continued page 8



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

SGA Votes Not to Support Three 6 Mafia On Campus

By Nicole Dales
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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

cerns 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.

Sullivan said there is a possibility the music group will be removed from the line up. Stu-

dent 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.

The SGA voted as to whether or not they wanted to support bringing the group to Oktoberfest. Seven senators voted in favor of bringing the group, and 17 senators voted against. Please check www.therotundaonline.com for updated information.

Open Forum On Campus & Community

By 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."



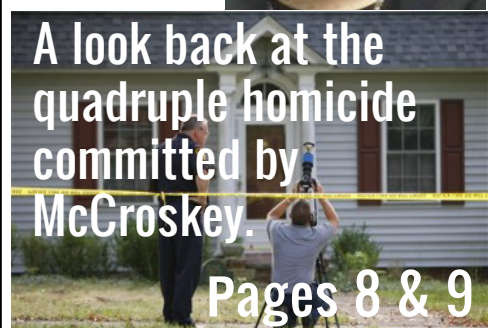
Beach reiterated he feels very strongly that Longwood is "the safest campus in the Commonwealth," but times have changed and we have entered a new era. He gave a short briefing to the crowd, beginning with an update on the assault on the male student outside of the Cummings Residence Hall on Sun., Aug. 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 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.

continued page 3

ONE
YEAR
LATER



Mortar Board Wins Award

Page 3

Find us
online!



therotundaonline.com

Mulligan’s Change of Staff Causes Problems for WMLU Radio Station

By Justin Clatterbuck
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 found serving alcohol to minors. So if cops are aware that there are lots of minors at Mulligan’s during this particular time and day and 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 cam-

pus.” She continued to say the team aspect of the event was something to remember. “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 bring more people to the event and maybe people will be interested and want to come back again and again.”

Longwood Bookstore in a Changing World

By Jan Shih
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

The Longwood University Barnes and Noble bookstore is a quintessential example of a traditional industry struggling to remain relevant in an era of digital revolution. The explosion of technology and e-commerce within the previous decade has dramatically altered the way Americans, especially younger generations, buy and sell goods. A recent report from Forrester Researcher found that online retail in the United States grew a staggering 11 percent in 2009 alone, with sales reaching over \$150 billion. Improved security and convenience have contributed to the growing willingness of consumers to purchase their goods online, but perhaps the strongest influence involves one of the most basic economic principles: lower prices.

Sophomore Brittany Hess said buying textbooks online was an easy choice; the prices for textbooks at the bookstore were simply “too expensive.” Hess is not alone. For many students, buying textbooks online is more affordable than buying them at a university bookstore. Due to

the sharp increases in textbook prices over the last few decades, the need to save money is not only more urgent, but the amount saved makes a bigger difference. A 2005 report prepared by the Government Accountability Office (GOA) found that from December 1986 to December 2004 textbook prices nearly tripled, increasing at an average of six percent a year, a rate that was twice that of inflation (the Federal Government funds nearly half of all U.S. college students).

But perhaps the primary reason publishers continue to raise prices is they know students have but few alternatives than to pay for textbooks their professors require. Short on expendable cash, students find themselves flocking 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, replaced instead by a trip to the university website.

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 major change at the bookstore. The bookstore now offers textbook rentals, which has thus far been very successful. Recognizing that some students have no intention of keeping a textbook at the end of the semester, textbook rentals, according to Hillman, offer students “a lower level of investment.” Not all books are available to rent, but those that are available cost roughly half the price of a new book, whereas used books cost roughly three-quarters the price of a new book.

Not everyone is ready to make the switch to online retailers. Adjunct professor Ronda Scarrow praised the bookstore, “[It has] always been absolutely wonderful.” Waiting for books to ship from online sellers can be frustrating to some, especially if the book needed is right away. The bookstore is occasionally out-of-stock or may order the wrong book, but the shipping is free.

“Whenever you make a purchase at the bookstore, you are supporting your community,” Hillman said. The bookstore employs students and a certain amount of the bookstore’s proceeds go to the university.

Student Government Association Discusses Red Flag Campaign in Meeting

By Nicole Dales
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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

universities 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 campus. 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.

The SGA allocated themselves the \$410.20, as the walk will be sponsored by the SGA.

Director of the Student Union Susan Sullivan came to speak

at the meeting about a possible change in the Oktoberfest line-up. More information can be found on the front page.

During the open forum, Senator Brian Reid brought up a complaint 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 handwriting recognition. Pierson agreed, prompting Senator Keenan Crump to take it to the Academic Affairs committee, which he is the chair.

Another concern brought forward as the lack of lighting in Lancer Park. This is another issue that is being looked into, seeing as safety concern is a high priority at Longwood.

The Open Forum on Campus and Community Safety

was touched on. SGA president Ben Britain, Pierson, Longwood President General 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.

The second reading of the Judicial Board constitution was completed. They are trying to make the Judicial Board constitution 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 Tues., Sept. 28 at 3:45 p.m., location TBD.

Open Forum Continued from Page 1

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.”

After the briefings, the forum was opened up to the audience.

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. 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 students were concerned that students were not notified of the recent robberies and assaults via text message. Beach said the only reasons why a campus text message alert will be activated if it is an “imminent, verifiable, life-threatening event.”

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.

Remembering What Counts

By Corey Morris
NEWS EDITOR



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 do one of two things: Push it away 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 after the fact. We are able to move on with our lives and go about 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 being 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 havoc on the ones we view as sane. But to say that they are like those who live each day wondering when the pain will go away is a long shot.

For those who have lost a family member or loved one to any cause, it is no doubt hard news to handle. You often feel alone and lost and questioning if that will be you at that age. But that feeling doesn’t last. We don’t think about it all the time. It may enter our wandering minds on occasion—a birthday, an event you know they would have loved to attend—but it is not a constant reminder. Instead, 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 compared to some, I am very fortunate. I can’t complain. I didn’t have to grow up without caretakers such as children who lost their family members to a horrible car accident. I didn’t spend a lifetime with a brother just to watch him die of cancer. I didn’t even have to endure the news of finding out one of my high school friends died at the hands of a drunk driver. No doubt, I consider myself blessed. And for 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 isn’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 is 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 all the time.” It’s such a chilling phrase. We are so afraid of death because it’s oh so common. We don’t know what happens after we die, but we are so very afraid of the moment when our clock has struck midnight it’s unbearable for some.

We can’t stop the inevitable occurrence of death, but we can do something to make it better. We can join those who we overlook—those we see as the “basket cases.” What they do is good, as long as it is healthy. They remember the loved ones who are long gone from this earth. But even though they may be gone, they still love them as if they walk the earth still today. While we know they can never come 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 deal 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. Just remember them. Even though they’re gone, their memory still counts.



Mortar Board Receives National Recognition

By Corey Morris
NEWS EDITOR

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.

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 (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



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

Photo courtesy The Office of Public Relations

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 people 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.”

Obesity Focus of Latest Blackwell Talks

By Corey Morris
NEWS EDITOR

Dr. Cathy Roy, associate 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 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. The presentation was broken into three parts. The first focused on society’s crusade against obesity. “Millions of Americans stepped on the scale this morning and that will dictate their day,” Roy said. She explained media’s role in the crusade and how fat is always portrayed as something bad. Roy discussed one of the newest procedures in the battle against the bulge, recently featured in Wall Street Journal, which involves freezing off fat from the body. Media’s role isn’t just limited to that, however. Recent ad campaigns have targeted meat eaters, soda drinkers, and depicted overweight people as whales, encouraging people to “save” them.

“We are also getting, unfortunately, a lot of contradictory and confusing 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. She took those in attendance through a visual history of fat-reducing tools and techniques through the years from fat belts to finger rings and all the way to tapeworms. She even had a shake weight to pass around.

Roy also spoke about some of the myths and misconceptions regarding

obesity. She said the body mass index (BMI) is often misinterpreted. “Nowhere in [the BMI] does it take body fat into account,” said Roy. Instead, the BMI scale simply measures the proportionality between a person’s weight and their height. Obesity is simply the amount of excess body fat.

The idea among the majority of people in society is that obesity is a major health risk. Health professionals even preach that atherosclerosis, where fat is collected along the artery walls, is linked to obesity. In fact, Roy sees the majority of these problems as caused by a poor diet and a lack of physical activity.

Part two of Roy’s speech involved explaining how some of the ideas developed are sometimes not all they are cracked up to be. She talked about one of the most telling parts of her research—insulin sensitivity in the body. She said in a 2005 study, subjects who gained body fat actually improved their insulin sensitivity by the same amount as subjects who lost weight through the study. The author of this study showed that exercise, not fat loss, was the key in maintaining a healthy insulin level. This breakthrough helps back those who say exercise is one of the most important parts to life and can help your body even if weight loss isn’t immediate.

“I think there’s enough evidence out there ... that we can normalize a lot of these health factors without losing weight,” said Roy. She said the prevalence of obesity and dieting is positively related. In the 1960s, research showed about fifteen percent of Americans were obese. Now, about a quarter are considered in that bracket. She also was rather tough on diets, which 70 million people try each year. She questioned if so many people try the \$35 billion market each year, why isn’t everyone fit? “Because diets don’t work.”

In her conclusion, Roy proposed a need to refocus efforts, since diets aren’t working. “It’s all about being more active.” The next Blackwell Talk will be Mon. Sept., 27 featuring Assistant Professor of English Casie LeGette.

egories 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 management 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.

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.”

NEWS BRIEFS

Longwood Summer Literacy Institute Earns Recognition

FARMVILLE, Va.—Longwood University’s Summer Literacy Institute 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 is 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.

More Robbers Strike Near VCU Campus

RICHMOND, Va.—Armed robbers struck four times in a 15-minute 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. 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. 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.

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 ballot 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 election for hours last week. 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.

compiled by Corey Morris

University’s ITTIP Program Receives State Technology Award

By Corey Morris
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 thirteen winners in six cat-

R.A.D. Program Is Back at Longwood

By 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 previous phases, in realistic replications of dangerous encounters.

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, Hud-

dleston 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.”

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.

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.



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

By 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 five is a running theme in Baldwin’s business; for just that many dollars, he will drive anyone 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.

Yellow Ribbon Campaign Awareness

By 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 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, it was the students who really made it happen. It was because students cared about this issue that the campaign was possible.

Recruitment: A Different Story for Fraternities and Sororities

By 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 fraternities it is a bit informal. Some chapters will host open houses, while others will use social functions. 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.

The numbers for all fraternity’s fall recruitment were a bit down. Some of it may be due to the lack of recruitment-related events 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 girls have the opportunity to see everything. Due to this, Steuber 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.

SPEAK OUT

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.”



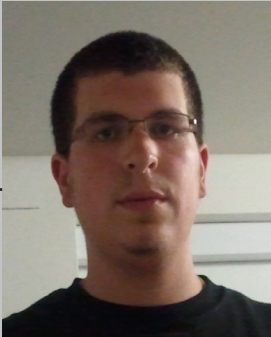
Meghan Greene, junior:

“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.”



Daniel Pennesi, sophomore:

“Probably rugby.”

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