

The Rotunda

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

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MATTHEW ALEXANDER | ONLINE EDITOR

How the recent loss of a loved one motivates Shaquille Johnson to push harder on the court

BY HALLE PARKER
@_HALPARKER
SPORTS EDITOR

It was a summer evening. Shaquille Johnson, a senior on the Longwood men's basketball team, lay in bed, fast asleep in his Georgia home. There was no alarm set for morning lifting or late night practice, so a full night of sleep awaited him when his phone rang without warning, waking him.

He answered to hear the distraught voice of a friend.

"Please tell me this isn't true."

"What are you talking about?" Johnson asked repeatedly. A link appeared in his messages.

A tap on his screen led him to the news of Dai-Jon Parker's death. Parker was more than a friend to Johnson; he was like his older brother.

And his older brother had drowned in a lake in Indiana after a tubing accident.

"Sometimes I still feel like it's not real," said Johnson.

Parker's life ended early at age 22 on May 28, 2015, shocking Johnson. He had known the former Vanderbilt basketball player since the eighth grade. Having played for the same basketball club, he said he looked up to Parker from a younger age group. His admiration only grew when his mother moved them an hour and a half across Georgia to a nicer high school for his last two years – the same high school as Parker.

—CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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Badeaux's no longer at 202



BRIANA ADHIKUSUMA | NEWS EDITOR

The empty space where Badeaux's Cajun Kitchen sign used to be displayed.

BY BRIANA ADHIKUSUMA
NEWS EDITOR
@BRIADHIKUSUMA

The sign for Badeaux's Cajun Kitchen has been taken down outside of the restaurant and Bar 202. The window stickers for the restaurant have been taken down from display as well.

The general manager for Bar 202, Thomas Rundstrom, confirmed the owner of the restaurant, Jason Badeaux, had left the partnership with Bar 202.

"We're renovating the restaurant a little bit, staying with the Cajun theme, and it's just under new management," said Rundstrom.

According to Rundstrom, the decision was made on Monday to bring the restaurant under new management.

"They're both still connected, there's just new management. We're just rebranding the restaurant,

like I said. It's a fairly simple changeover. We're just getting new signs made, that's why they're down right now," said Rundstrom.

Although the restaurant will retain a Cajun theme, there is yet to be a name chosen.

"We're actually still working on the name," confirmed Rundstrom.

The specific reason for Badeaux leaving the partnership with Bar 202 has yet to be known.

"Jason's no longer with us, I'm the new GM (general manager). He just went a separate way," said Rundstrom.

Rundstrom declined to make any further comments on Badeaux.

Badeaux's had joined in a partnership with Bar 202 less than a year ago in March 2015.

The Rotunda has reached out to the owners of Bar 202 and Jason Badeaux for comment. Follow The Rotunda for more updates.

Graphic Design & Animation major changes in application process



What a student's work station will look like when they are putting together their portfolio.

VICTORIA WALKER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The Art department will be implementing changes with the next group of incoming freshman.

The Graphic Design and Animation major will request students applying to the major to optionally send a portfolio of their work.

"This year is the first year we are piloting a portfolio entrance, so we are not requiring it," said Christopher Register, Chair of the Theatre, Art and Graphic Design and Animation department. "So, we are basically saying if you would like to apply with a portfolio you will be eligible for a one-time \$1,000 scholarship to the best portfolio that is submitted."

With the concrete details still in the planning, Register mentioned

a few things they would expect to see in a portfolio, such as drawings, sketchbooks, three dimensional construction and animation or simulation.

"Most likely, if the questions are well answered, and the portfolio is of high quality, we will go ahead and accept them. If the portfolio is terrible and the answers are really bad, we will say no, you can't get into the program," said Register. "If the portfolio is not very good but the questions are insightful or vice versa, we would probably do a skype interview with the candidate."

According to Register, the art department had never really been in favor of adding a portfolio requirement.

There was a concern that if they

received portfolios (from high school students), they wouldn't be able to tell if the portfolio came from the student or was overly directed by the faculty member at the school.

"We are nurturing in the manner that we wanted to work on the students first, and then say if you aren't cutting it, then we will wash you out in the assessments that we have every year," said Register.

Assessments for Graphic Design and Animation students are how professors assess progress and a set number of projects students have completed during the semester.

When asked about why this will only be affecting the Graphic and Animation Design major, Register said that the three programs in the department are separate programs, and even though they function differently from each other, they still share a strategic connection.

According to Register, they intend to focus on how many people participate and then want to discuss the results since they don't know what they expect to see.

"There is no guarantee that that's going to be in the future, but we are just trying to pilot because no one has really done this before on campus," said Register.

They have also been working with

the admissions office to try and measure the results of this pilot.

Register hopes changes will eventually lead to a faculty increase.

"We were having studio classes with 40 students, and it was completely unmanageable," said Register. "So, unless if they can get more faculty, they will have to be able to control the number of students coming in."

Jackie Muir, a senior Graphic Design and Animation major, expressed her support for the addition of a portfolio requirement, "I think it will help with the numbers because Bedford is a small building, and (in) my biggest class, we're trying to fit almost 35 kids in a drawing studio, and some of us are at tables and some of us are on the floor... by help controlling the influx of students coming in, it can help give everyone a seat, as well as to prevent overcrowding happening."

With this new process, they will be able to capture the amount of students that want to be admitted into the program.

"If the number increases, we can make the argument that we need more faculty because there is more popularity in this program," said Register.

Register emphasized that if it negatively impacts admission, it will at least increase the rigor.

The option for applicants to submit a portfolio is currently available and will affect students applying in the fall of 2016.

National: Students applying for loan forgiveness

BY CHRISTINE RINDFLEISCH
CONTRIBUTOR

Some college students across the nation have recently been applying for loan forgiveness for their college loans through a federal program allowing students to appeal their student debt.

According to CBS News, “more than 7,500 people have asked the federal government to forgive a total of \$164 million in student loans...” Many of these students are forming their arguments based on the claim that these colleges have committed fraud by advertising guarantees made regarding future careers and earnings after graduation. Other students have claimed benefits on closed school loan discharges.

In the U.S. Higher Education Act of 1965, there is a clause that “allows students who were defrauded by their colleges to request loan forgiveness,” according to CBS News.

This act also authorized most federal student financial aid programs. This included the Educational Opportunity Grant Program and the Guaranteed Student Loan Program.

Attention to the program was limited until an incident with Corinthian Colleges, a for-profit institution. According to CBS News, the institution liquidated after declaring bankruptcy last year. A majority of the students from the colleges, mainly Everest Institute and Wyotech and Heald College, sought loan forgiveness or borrower defense to repayment from the Federal Student Aid (FSA), an office of the U.S. Department of Education.

The event brought attention to the federal program and the number of students submitting claims for loan forgiveness has risen, according to CNN.

“I don’t know if it’s the government’s job to compensate (students for the loans)...(loan forgiveness) is rare and underutilized,” said Melissa Shepherd, the director of financial aid at Longwood University.

There are two types of federal loans that are packaged with student financial aid at Longwood: student loans and parent loans.

Fifty-four percent of Longwood students receive federal loans. For undergraduate borrowers who complete their education the typical total debt they face is \$25,327 with a typical monthly loan payment of \$281 a month, according to the FSA.

“Those that graduated in the fall had an average federal student loan debt of \$24,365,” stated Shepherd.

According to Shepherd, a freshman has the ability to receive \$5,500 in a federal loan, which will not come close to the full amount of tuition that is typically sought out through scholarships and grants.

However, if a student is independent and does not report their parent’s information on FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for any given reason, then they would be eligible to receive \$9,500.

For a federal loan provided by the government, there are two types of loans, subsidized and unsubsidized. Subsidized loans are need-based and result in the government paying for the interest on the loan while the student is in school. Unsubsidized refers to interest that accumulates over a period of time while a student is in school, and once a

student graduates then the student is “paying interest on top of interest” to pay off the loan, according to Shepherd.

Whoever applies for a loan whether they are a student or a parent, one must sign a legal Master Promissory Note (MPN) which is an agreement to pay back whatever amount of money is taken in loans.

Although the cost of tuition for most universities has gone up, the amount of money that a student can borrow has remained the same.

“In reality, a lot of people don’t have that money that are getting loans, but if you do, it’s a smart option to pay (the loan) off,” said Shepherd.

Under the direction of President Barack Obama, the Obama Student Loan Forgiveness program has allowed that “the federal government will no longer give subsidies to private lending institutions for federally backed loans... borrowers of new loans starting in 2014 will qualify to make payments based on 10% of their discretionary income... new borrowers would also be eligible for student loan forgiveness after 20 years instead of 25 on qualifying payments... money will be used to fund poor and minority students and increase college funding,” according to Student Debt Relief.

“Student loans are a hot button issue,” said Shepherd. “Even though over-borrowing is definitely bad, borrowing is not necessarily bad.”

If a student or parent is struggling to pay off the debt from student loans, Shepherd suggests, “Do not avoid the problem, (student loans are a) problem that doesn’t go away.”

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SFC Report

BY CHRISTINE RINDFLEISCH
CONTRIBUTOR

Proposed Allocations:

\$904.78 (Alpha Kappa Alpha)
- Funds toward four members attending regional conference in Virginia Beach, Va.
- Motion was passed to proceed to Senate for vote. Senate approved.

\$4,207.35 (American Marketing Association)
- Funds toward four members attending international conference in New Orleans.
- Motion was passed to proceed to Senate for vote. Senate approved.

\$4,850.78 (The Rotunda)
- Funds toward four members attending annual conference in Los Angeles.
- Motion was passed to proceed to Senate for vote. Senate approved.

SGA Brief: Feb. 9



BY CHRISTINE RINDFLEISCH
CONTRIBUTOR

Senator Mark Barham brought up the idea to add a policy to the student handbook which would ban the use of cellphones during class periods.

Senator Tonisha Pitchford felt it was unnecessary to add the policy given that it is the student's decision to use their cellphone during class. Pitchford also added how many professors have already incorporated the use of cell phones into the class to find a more modern way of learning.

Patricia Hale, a representative from Facilities Management Services, attended this week's meeting to discuss the upcoming event titled "Recyclemania." This program serves to promote recycling on campus throughout the United States and Canada. "Recyclemania" is an international competition that monitors recycling per capita. At Longwood, there are

recycling centers on campus that allow students to recycle as they please.

Dr. Tim Pierson mentioned that there are some graduate programs, which are currently being considered to be added or enhanced.

Treasurer Jessica Darst brought attention to the recent issues regarding members of the LGBT community. Particular members have not felt respected in the classroom environment by professors.

Executive Senator India White pointed out that there is currently no faculty/staff diversity training in place.

SGA President Constance Garner mentioned that in years past, the SGA has sponsored a New Lancer Day speaker as well as the G.A.M.E. scarves and wished to continue to do so. Garner felt that this information has gone unknown to many, and Darst suggested to place the SGA logo on the scarf for advertisement purposes.

Longwood will be hosting programs in honor of the anniversary of the signing of the 26th amendment, which lowered the voting age from 21 to 18. On Wednesday, March 23rd Longwood will hold "Democracy Day" to commemorate.

Faculty Senate Brief

BY BRIANA ADHIKUSUMA
NEWS EDITOR
@BRIADHIKUSUMA

This month's Faculty Senate meeting focused on deadlines for winter intersession grades, policies concerning emotional support animals and the use of letters from previous chairs in tenure consideration portfolios.

Due to issues with late grades submitted for the intersession, the senate discussed a possible deadline for submittal. In the past, some winter intersession grades were not submitted until May. This caused issues for students who were attempting to graduate, but were delayed or encountered issues with grades for classes which may have not been passed.

The deadline would come with an option for professors to request an extension if needed.

The motion passed for a deadline of 8:30 a.m. on the third day after the end of the intersession.

Dr. Tim Pierson brought the issue of policies for emotional support animals (ESA's) to the attention of the senate. There is currently no policy in place for ESA's.

ESA's are not the same as service dogs and are therefore not recognized under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). However, according to Pierson, they are recognized by the Fair Housing Act, but it doesn't support the ESA's in the classroom.

Pierson went on to point out that qualified health professionals have documented the need for ESA's.

The discussion in the senate revolved around whether or not the animals would be disruptive or distracting in classrooms, and allergies of those around the ESA's.

Currently, the determination for the allowance of service dogs is sent to the Office of Disability Resources for determination and then Housing.

A decision has yet to be made concerning ESA's.

The main concern of letters for tenure consideration portfolios was confidentiality. The current policy has been that faculty could include letters from previous department chairs, and the new policy would require the letters to be included. Discussion centered on how to best ensure confidentiality.

The new academic core curriculum has been delayed for a year due to needs for more feedback and the senate to revisit it again. This pushes the new academic core curriculum to be piloted during the 2017-2018 academic year, and then rolled out in the fall semester of 2018.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be held on March 3 at 3:30 p.m. in rooms 209 A&B in Greenwood Library. The University Planning Council meeting will be held on April 26 at 3:30 p.m. Both meetings are open.

Crime Log

DATE REPORTED	DATE & TIME OCCURRED	TYPE OF COMPLAINT	LOCATION OCCURRED	CFS #	DISPOSITION
02/07/2016	02/07/2016 1:05 am	DUI	South Main Street	2016-001329	Closed: Arrest Made
02/03/2016	02/02/2016 10:00 pm- 02/03/2016 12:00 pm	Larceny	2 nd Avenue	2016-001191	Closed: Referred to outside agency
02/02/2016	02/02/2016 2:22 p.m.	Possession of Marijuana	Curry Hall	2016-001145	Closed: Summons issued

Mardi Gras Crawl

BY EMILY CARROLL
CONTRIBUTOR

Bringing the joyous festival's rich history and culture to campus, Longwood Landings' residential staff hosted the Mardi Gras Crawl, which took place in front of the Curry and Frazer residence halls on Tuesday.

The staff was very gracious to those who participated in the event by thanking all who contributed to make the event happen. Despite the winds and the bitter cold, students still came out to see what the event had to offer. There was live music, cake and a rice dish for those to indulge in while mingling with friends and other participants. Car trunks were dressed with purple, green and gold streamers, tinsel and traditional masks for the festivities. Representatives from various organizations and offices handed out fliers, candy and beads to represent the fun holiday.

Lancer Productions President Jessica Hamilton stated that she "enjoyed attending the event to support the Landing's staff members and to have fun with fellow students."

Hamilton also mentioned the event, "was...a good opportunity to market Lancer Productions' upcoming event."

In regards to the elaborate decorations, Hamilton stated, "The cars were very creative and the amount of effort put into this event was obvious."

The host of this event was unable to conduct an interview; however, Vicki Palmer, EJ Woulff and Iriene Girgente attended the event representing Greenwood Library, giving away Mardi Gras beads and chatting with students along with handing out fliers to inform students of the multiple resources the library had to offer.

In respect to the holiday, Palmer stated, "Mardi Gras is a holiday that has a lot of tradition behind it."

Mardi Gras is most celebrated in New Orleans. The holiday's name means "Fat Tuesday" and is meant to begin the Catholic holiday Lent. Traditions include parades with floats decorated with every traditional aspect of the holiday and throwing beads with colors such as green, gold and purple. Another tradition is wearing masks to give people the opportunity for one day to disregard social class so all can celebrate the holiday as one.

Mardi Gras is a world-famous holiday with many different traditions and this event was a unique way to inform students what Mardi Gras is about. From students winning raffles, eating cake and listening to music, the event was worth the winter conditions.



ANN POLEK | CONTRIBUTOR

THE REAL WORLD CHRONICLES



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Real World 101: Your Career Toolkit

J.T. O'Donnell

CEO & Founder of CAREEREALISM & CareerHMO
Recruiting, Employer & Career Branding Specialist, Career HMO

- How to get a killer job, and one you won't be bored with

Thursday, February 4 • 4:00 PM, Bedford Auditorium



FEB 4

Real World 102: Dream Job Possible

Catherine Byers Breet '93

Chief Stripe Changer | Career Catalyst | Talent Wrangler, ARBEZ

- You can do what you love for a living, but it won't fall in your lap

Thursday, February 11 • 4:00 PM, Bedford Auditorium



FEB 11

Real World 103: How to Build Your Network in College

John Hill

Network Catalyst at Techstars

- Understanding the power of relationships

Thursday, February 25 • 4:00 PM, Bedford Auditorium



FEB 25

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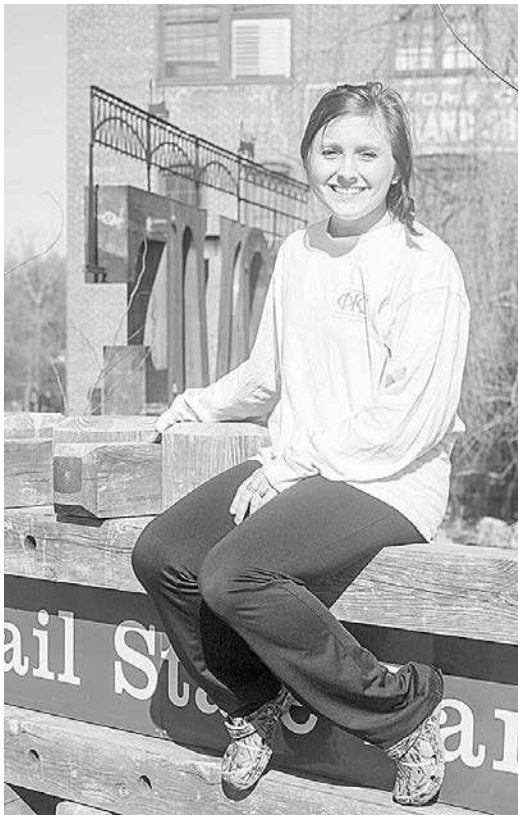
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Humans of Longwood: Sam Kese



MARLISHA STEWART | PHOTO STAFF

BY KIERSTEN FREEDMAN
COPY STAFF
@KFREEDMAN44

For junior Sam Kese, the best days are the ones spent outside. Whether she is at home in Goode, Virginia, hunting and fishing, or in Farmville biking the High Bridge Trail, Kese stays true to her farm girl roots as much as possible. Kese grew up on a 100-acre cattle farm in a rural area between Lynchburg and Roanoke, which she described as “the epitome of country.”

In addition to her psychology major and outdoor education minor, Kese is also former Philanthropy Chair of Delta Zeta, president of She’s the First, an organization which works to educate girls in third world countries, and the sweetheart of Phi Kappa Tau, a position she holds close to her heart.

She describes it as being “basically like their big sister... their number one fan. I support them at all their brotherhood and philanthropy events... I’m basically one of the brothers.”

She commented that the brothers are her best friends and she knows she can count on every single one of them.

However, nothing compares to how she feels about the time she caught a bull shark this past summer, 20 miles off the coast of Hilton Head Island in South Carolina. While on a guided fishing tour, Kese’s reel started spinning quickly and “it took an hour to reel it in.” Never fret; she tossed the shark back in the water after catching it.

When not slaying ocean beasts, Kese studies psychology at Longwood, where she appreciates the size and quality of the department. She became intrigued with the major during a high school psychology class and how in depth it went about the brain, as well as how broad a topic psychology is when it comes to careers.

Nothing inspires her more, though, than an autistic friend in high school, whom she reminisced as “just the sweetest thing,” and the experience of her brother, John, being diagnosed with

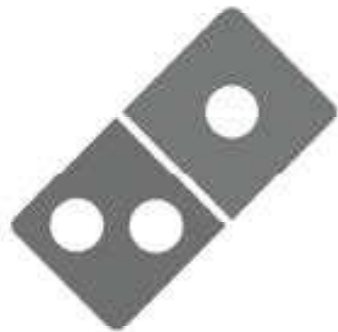
a brain malformation two years ago, which required nine brain surgeries and two spinal surgeries to remedy. What ultimately cured him though, was his outdoor rehabilitation, playing outside and doing the things he used to love to do.

After graduation, Kese hopes to work in child psychology, possibly as a special education teacher. At Longwood, Kese’s favorite place to be is the Longwood Ropes Course, about a mile away from main campus, near the Longwood Golf Course. Her favorite challenge at the ropes course is the “Wall.”

“It’s... my favorite team building activity, you have to get everyone up over this huge ten foot wall... it’s a really fun experience,” she said.

It’s hard to imagine she has any free time, but when she does, she loves to run, bike and walk High Bridge Trail, saying, “There’s such a beautiful view out there.”

On the off chance that she has to stay inside, Kese says, “I love to read and I would pick reading over Netflix any day.”



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BY EMILY CARROLL
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Learning to be a leader

Preview for the Social Justice in Action Leadership Summit

BY PAYTON CONWAY
FEATURES EDITOR
@WWEPAYTONAC

The Social Justice in Action Leadership Summit is upon us once again. The fifth annual summit is an all day symposium that will be held on Saturday, Feb. 20 in Blackwell Hall. Its mission is to help motivate and encourage students to be citizen leaders who advocate for social justice and equality on campus and throughout their perspective communities.

The summit has a different theme every year; last year's theme was focused on social justice and the media. This year's theme is "Meeting at the Crossroads:

Intersectionality and the Politic of Identity," which will focus on gender and race identity.

The summit will feature two keynote speakers, Robin Ochs and Charlene Carruthers. Ochs, the opening keynote speaker, is an educator, speaker and award-winning activist who has been published in numerous women's studies, multicultural and LGBT anthologies. Carruthers is a community organizer, educator, writer and speaker with over 10 years of experience with racial justice, feminist and youth leadership development movement work. In addition to the keynote speakers, students from the Student Diversity Inclusion Council and

several faculty and staff members will be presenting various breakout sessions where participants can choose from different workshops through out the day.

The event is open to the public, as the committee has invited other Virginia schools such as Hampden-Sydney College and members of the community. Longwood students can attend for free, others can attend for the price of \$25. All participants will be provided continental breakfast and lunch in addition to a t-shirt.

Regarding the summit, Susan Sullivan, Director of the University Center and Student Activities said, "Every year, I think it's gotten better and better. I think

the content has gotten better, the keynote speakers every year...Our goal is that they (students) can leave there (the summit) to make an impact on their communities... whether it's here in Farmville, here at Longwood or back home."

Although there is no concrete deadline, Sullivan requests that people sign up by Tuesday, Feb. 16.

If you would like to learn more about the summit or register for it, you can visit <http://socialjusticesummit.longwood.edu>.

Think fast, Longwood!



Daniel Frush wins the "Think Fast" trivia show that Lancer Productions put on February 5.

MARLISHA STEWART | PHOTO STAFF

BY DAVID PETTYJOHN
A&E STAFF
@PETTYJOHNDAVID

Speed, knowledge and creativity were the key in students' quest for

victory. On Friday in the Lankford Student Union Ballroom, Lancer Productions hosted "Think Fast," an interactive trivia game show where students competed for the

prize of \$200.

For the first round, students had 30 seconds to answer questions from categories such as history (many of which focused on

black history) and pop culture by pressing numbered buttons on a remote. Players could enter multiple answers, but their points would decrease after selecting their first choice. Things were intensified once the speed rounds began decreasing the time down to five seconds.

The next round, contestants were invited to come on stage to act in certain challenges. The challenges included: debating as a third party candidate in the 2016 election against Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, improvising your way out of getting a speeding ticket, dancing and singing a Motown song.

Several members of the audience were selected to be part of the dancing act, performing dances such as "The Chicken Dance," and "The Whip and the Nae Nae." Graphic design major and junior Daniel Frush managed a spot in the finals with his impromptu performance as a

presidential candidate. Two of the audience members were able to get their way out of the ticket; one did so by telling the police officer that he was going to the hospital to see his dying grandmother. Two girls from the audience sang their Motown songs, with junior Talisha McCargo's performance of "My Girl" by the Temptations winning over the audience.

From the challenges, five finalists went on to compete on stage from podiums resembling a "Jeopardy!" set up and answer questions about various sound clips from popular movies, television shows and songs. Despite missing several of the sound clip questions, Frush was eventually crowned the winner and recipient of the prize money. He stated that he was not surprised at his win, because he "came in second last year, and it was based on one question."

LCVA hosts Valentine's Day Art Festival



CARLY SHAIA | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Cori Riggott-O'Leary volunteers at the LCVA's Valentines Day Art Festival.

BY DAVID PETTYJOHN
A&E STAFF
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Love was in the air on Saturday when The Longwood Center for the Visual Arts hosted a Valentine's Day Art festival featuring arts and crafts workshops for children of all ages. The workshops included making Valentine's Day cards and animal-themed Valentine's Day puns, such as "Will you be my Valentine."

There were also crafts like making a heart to put on your sleeve to represent the hearts that a man in Victorian England would wear on his sleeve bearing the name of the woman he loved. Children attending the festival could also listen to Valentine's Day themed stories.

The event was organized by Emily Grabiec, the LCVA's Director of Education and Outreach. It is an annual event, and this is her ninth year organizing it, though it has been going for several years before she began. She says that "it's one of our most popular free family workshops." She puts on this workshop every year because "it's a very fun thing for families... to come together and get to make art." She hopes that events like this

will raise the Farmville community's awareness and interest in the LCVA.

She finds it hard to pick out a favorite activity out of all of them, but she feels she would have to pick the one in which the children make their own valentines. She says that she likes "to see the kids be really creative and see them come up with their own ideas."

"There's no rules, they just get to make whatever they want, and I think it's really fun to see what they come up with." She also describes how the number of attendees can fluctuate rapidly from year to year. "We've had anywhere from two hundred to six hundred people come, so I think it's a good thing to be prepared for as many people to come as possible," she adds.

These workshops were also heavily attended by several fraternity members. Leslie Brett is a member of Alpha Phi Omega, a service fraternity that frequently volunteers in the Farmville community. Her job at the event was to help the children with any problems that came up, and starting at the station where the attendees made Celtic knots and moving around to many different tables.

Richmond Symphony



The Richmond Symphony Orchestra visited Longwood University this past Thursday. Visiting conductor Victor Yampolsky featured "Violin Concerto No. 2 in G minor, Opus 63" by Prokofiev and "Manfred Opus 58" by Tchaikovsky. The opening violin concerto featured master violinist Daisuke Yamamoto as the featured soloist (pictured far left).

CARLY SHAIA | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Coldplay who? Beyoncé and Bruno take over the Super Bowl Halftime stage

Here's a full review of the #SB50 Halftime Show



COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

BY NATALIE JOSEPH
ASST. A&E EDITOR
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With 111.9 million eyes on them Sunday night, popular British band Coldplay, with the help of Beyoncé, Bruno Mars and Mark Ronson, took the Super Bowl 50 Halftime Show stage and it was a whole lot of everything.

The show kicked off with Coldplay front man Chris Martin crouched down on the football field as fans ran at him while he sang one of Coldplay's most successful songs, "Viva La Vida." Soon after the opening, an orchestra of kids (Gustavo Dudamel's Los Angeles Philharmonic Youth Orchestra) joined the band on stage and everyone felt happy for the kids, but were still bored because the

music was slow and looking at Martin singing solo on stage was just not that appealing.

After the orchestra of youths cleared off the stage, Coldplay began to play another one of their popular hits, 2011's "Paradise" followed by their newest single "Adventure of a Lifetime." Barely anyone has ever heard it, so you were not alone when you got bummed that they cut off "Paradise" for a song that you cannot sing along to.

Regardless of that, at this point the performance moved from boring to quite nice and calming actually. With the mesmerizing colors and graphics displayed, I felt like Coldplay brought a bit of softness to the Super Bowl stage that was expected, yet not completely appropriate, but it also made me feel like I was at a music festival like Coachella or something.

After that slight borefest was over, Bruno Mars and popular producer/DJ Mark Ronson took over the stage bursting into a slightly slower version of their 2015 monster hit "Uptown Funk," and the mood of the halftime show turned up a little bit, finally giving viewers something to dance and sing along to.

But then this little known artist named Beyoncé Knowles joined the team of halftime entertainers, entering from the field (yes, the field, not the stage) and performed her brand new single "Formation" that she dropped the night before and everyone lost their minds.

Not only was it the first time some viewers had even heard Queen Bey's new song, her dance moves (and hair!) slayed the game as she was accompanied on the field by a drum line and a formation (get it) of dancers.

Then everyone watching lost their honest minds, when Beyoncé and Bruno broke into a dance battle to a mash up of "Uptown Funk" and "Crazy in Love." The two were eventually joined by Martin on stage, but let's be honest, no one cared that Coldplay was even there anymore.

But then we were reminded that Coldplay actually was the halftime show headliner when they toned the music down once again and Martin sat at his piano, playing the melody to "Clocks." That was accompanied by a montage of past Super Bowl Halftime performers that gave me all the feels I could ever possibly feel and actually brought my pop culture loving eyes to tears. They eventually transitioned into everyone's (so biased) favorite Coldplay song, "Fix You" that continued to make me cry uncontrollably in my

living room.

A truly wonderful and fun ending that brought all three performances together along with their respective background acts was topped off by the cameras panning up to the Super Bowl stadium audience, who were holding up signs that together read, "Believe in Love."

Then again, just when you thought it was all over and Bey and Bruno kind of gave Coldplay their headliner status back, immediately after the performance was over, a graphic announced that the Queen herself would be embarking on a the Formation World Tour this year, and everyone forgot about everything that just happened and freaked out.

Though there were no major mishaps and the three performers ended up working well together, it was somewhat disappointing that no additional surprise artists joined them onstage.

Overall, although wowed by each performer's individual performance, I thought the halftime show was a mess, just in the fact that the genres, outfits and message were all over the place at many moments during the show.

At one point I felt like I was at a club with Bruno, a concert with Beyoncé and a music festival with Coldplay, which had the potential to be insanely cool, if the performance was longer and if their microphones were actually turned up to a proficient volume because I, and many people I have talked to since, literally could only hear the background tracks the whole time, which was disappointing to say the least.

Each act though, slayed the game in their own right, and the NFL and halftime show producers got it right when they made the decision to highlight previous Super Bowl performers during the Super Bowl's 50th anniversary. Like seriously, that video footage of Michael Jackson was everything.

Also a disappointing realization: that Beyoncé (the queen of all things) and Bruno have now performed two Super Bowl Halftime Shows and have basically ran their course at the annual football game, giving us no hope that we will probably ever see them on that stage again.

Next year, I would, no joke, like to see Janet Jackson and Justin Timberlake, with a guest appearance by Left Shark, take the stage again and re-attempt nipple gate.

Letter to the President

Concerns about Longwood golf course



LINDSAY MANNING | CONTRIBUTOR

BY JAMES C. KIDD
COMMUNITY SUBMISSION

Open letter to Longwood University President W. Taylor Reveley, IV and members of the Administration and Board of Visitors

Representing the community of golfers at the Longwood University Golf Course, in response to persistent rumors that the golf course might be closed for “repurposing,” I write to give reasons why such a decision would be unfortunate and short-sighted, and to express our serious disagreement with such a decision. We consider the long history of the course, its central role in serving Longwood’s curricular and informal recreational and athletic programs and its important role in community relations.

In continuous operation since the late 1920s, the Longwood golf course was the home of renowned golf coach, Barbara Smith, whose teams won multiple national championships, several of whose members went on to play on the LPGA tour. The present superb staff has created a warm

and hospitable atmosphere welcoming to golfers of all ages and skill levels, an impressive accomplishment. At a time when Longwood University has officially approved initiatives in the Master Plan to enhance town-gown relations, it need look no further than the Longwood golf course as an outstanding model of how to serve diverse constituencies of the campus and the larger community. With its long-time commitment to the values of education, recreation and service, its convenient in-town location and its affordable fees, the Longwood golf course is a gem to all those who enjoy it. It is a quality course, unusual in being as accessible to the beginner learning the game as it is challenging to more seasoned players who love its character, beauty and playability. Many of the valuable services and opportunities that the course provides include:

-- The Longwood University men’s and women’s golf teams continue to use the course for practice and play, sharing those functions with the Manor.

-- The course is used regularly for

Longwood University golf classes. The new women’s golf coach, Shannon Briggs, can often be seen teaching large groups of Longwood students, obviously enjoying the experience, on the practice greens and range.

-- The course is used regularly by area high school golfers. Golf teams of Prince Edward County High School and the Fuqua School use the course for practice. High school tournaments involve the two local teams and many other public and private high school golf teams, including coaches and parents, from surrounding counties. School buses fill the parking lot. These events also suggest good recruiting opportunities for Longwood University.

-- The 60 student members of the intramural golf club of Hampden-Sydney College play on the course regularly.

-- The course is used regularly for league play. “Senior Shambles” are 18-hole competitions held twice a week almost year-round, weather permitting, that involve some 25 devoted players that range in age from late 20s to mid-80s, and that represent a five-county area. There is also an active year-round league for nine holes of captain’s choice format once a week, beginning conveniently after work.

-- Throughout the year the Longwood course hosts a number of tournaments. The Longwood Invitational is for faculty, staff, administrators and guests of Longwood University. The Joe Cho Seafood Tournament is a favorite annual fund-raiser, participants enjoying the excellent food provided by Joe and his family. There is, of course, the annual Club Championship, open to members only with various categories, junior, regular, senior and super senior. The Virginia State Golf Association Junior Tournament is hosted every other year. The annual Ladies Southside Golf Association Tournament, a tournament fund-raiser for area fire fighters and first responders, in addition to other special events, all underscore the course’s important service to the area.

-- The main function of the course is daily play, weekdays and weekends almost year-

round. It serves members and non-member walk-ons, including students, faculty and staff of Longwood University, Hampden-Sydney College and area high schools, as well as the large and diverse community of local and area players, whether occasional or almost daily. Golfers at Longwood come from all walks of life and enjoy an easy camaraderie without the pretensions of a country club ambience. The atmosphere at Longwood is egalitarian, down-home and wonderfully American in character, again largely thanks to the efforts of the excellent and attentive staff.

-- The Longwood course also provides an attractive and healthy environment for the large number of volunteer workers who come to do community service on a regular basis.

Most of the players at Longwood feel an extraordinary loyalty and fierce devotion to, and affection for, the staff and the course that provides so much pleasure. But we recognize another humane quality felt but difficult to define, the genuine sense of a family. The amount of good will towards Longwood University that the golf course generates cannot be measured objectively, but it is palpable, and it would be deeply harmed were the course to close.

We urge President Reveley, the Longwood University administration, and members of the Longwood University Board of Visitors to understand the significant virtues and values of the Longwood golf course as we do, and to see that it serves an invaluable mission of the university. Please allow it to continue as an important educational, recreational and community resource, a gem in community relations. Can any alternative purpose possibly be as valuable? Thank you.

Sincerely, James C. Kidd
Barger Professor Emeritus of Music,
Hampden-Sydney College
Member since 1981, Longwood
University Golf Course

Water: It all starts with you

BY CATALINA MAS
CONTRIBUTOR

Sometimes it is used for feeding animals or irrigating crops. Meanwhile, we use it daily for showering, brushing our teeth, doing the laundry, cleaning our rooms and having fun during summer: Water is an essential resource in our life and yet, we do not duly take care of it.

According to the U.S Geological Survey, each person uses about 80-100 gallons of water per day. Surprisingly, the largest use of household water is toilet flushing, followed by showering.

Even though the government has attempted to raise awareness of the over usage of water with new legislations, people are continuously wasting huge amounts of water. Shawn Hamilton, a 50 year old mechanic, said, "A lot of people my age just do not know the restrictions and just use the water we have." Hamilton also added that one of his friends was really wasteful when it comes to water use, "He became really aware five years ago when no water could be taken from the Appomattox River and Virginia faced an important drought." Then, Hamilton concluded, "We Americans don't mind until it become an issue".

In 2013, the World Resource Institute conducted a research called "Top Countries Facing Water Stress" that placed the United States among those countries that faced "low to medium stress," this is to say that the country was being

threatened by droughts that not only affect the society but reduce the economic growth.

In order to avoid water shortage and leave some of this necessary resource for the following generations to come, the Appomattox River Water Authority provides some important tips to keep in mind:

1. Do not let the faucet run while washing hands, face or while shaving.

2. Turn the water off while brushing your teeth.

3. Do not use the toilet as a wastebasket. Each flush of a standard toilet uses three and a half to seven gallons of water.

4. Take shorter showers.

5. If washing dishes by hand, rinse them in a half-full basin or pan instead of under running water.

6. Thaw frozen food in advance in the refrigerator or use the microwave instead of running water.

7. Take ice cube trays from the freezer a few minutes before they are needed. The ice cubes will loosen at room temperature without the need to run them under tap water.

8. Encourage your friends and neighbors to be part of a water-conscious community.

It is crucial to raise awareness on water over usage before it is too late. We, as college students, can make the change the world needs to see. We are young enough to take care of an essential resource like water. Help your future children by telling your family and friends not to waste water. Begin today!

BY KAYLA AUGUSTINE
CONTRIBUTOR

Accents are beautiful- don't be a jerk

"Say vote." She snickered.

"Now say gloves." She looked over at her friends, rolling her eyes and laughing.

"Say friend."

I remember sitting across from this scene, appalled that there was such blatant bullying taking place among a group of women in their fifties. Three of them were singling out one woman. She was someone who learned English as a second language, and she was being mocked by these fools. She was someone that I knew, and she came from a country in Southeast Asia.

From what I have witnessed, there has been an overwhelming and disappointing majority that view having an accent as a sign of unintelligence – which is the farthest thing from the truth. Even here on campus, I have heard students remark that they despise going to certain professors' classes because they think those professors "can't speak English." That statement is incredibly flawed in logic, as many of these professors have earned their doctorates and teaching certifications in this

country. These same students who make these outrageous claims also mock the professor when in disagreement – speaking incredibly slowly and overly enunciated and laughing at their accent. On the first day of this semester, I overheard a student remark about a certain professor, "I was incredibly nervous when I saw the foreign last name on my schedule. I hope she can speak English." My jaw dropped when I heard that. I could not even fathom thinking such thoughts about someone I have never even met before (much less prejudge their English-speaking abilities.)

I remember hearing from one of my Canadian friends that employers up North prefer candidates who have accents because it easily displays that they know a second language. Employers prefer that because that candidate can reach out to a larger market of people. I don't know if this is true or not (and this could lead into another conversation about discrimination and profiling) but I can understand that reasoning. Even on international channels like the BBC based in the United Kingdom, I have watched interviews take place where many

interviewers do not have accents originating from Europe.

Accents are beautiful. When a person speaks with one, they are speaking with centuries of rich history. They speak with the struggles and successes of their ancestors before them, even Americans. Yes, I know that some people think "we don't have an accent." Oh yes, we most certainly do (and our accent was shaped by many ethnic groups years in the making.) We stick out like a flamingo among swans whenever we go abroad and sometimes our accents get made fun of.

With this article that I'm writing, I am mainly writing about discrimination against those who speak with accents originating in regions of Africa, Asia, South America and Central America. I have not witnessed much discrimination against European accents, in fact I often hear wonder and admiration from my peers whenever they hear one. I don't have a doctorate in anthropology nor do I have my Master's in Cultural Studies to explain why there is such shameful judgement against non-European accent.

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If you are interested in any positions or even if you have critique for us, come to our open meetings this Wednesday, February 10 in the Lankford BC Rooms at 6:45 p.m.!

Have a news tip for The Rotunda? Email rotundaeditor@gmail.com with your tip today!



The Rotunda Row

ILLUSTRATION BY JOSHUA BAKER, CONTRIBUTOR

It's Valentine's Day

Can you feel the love?

BY CASSIE TAGERT
ASSISTANT COPY EDITOR

Four days from now will be the most stereotypically romantic day of the year: Valentine's Day. There are a lot of mixed feelings about this holiday. A lot of people don't like it because they feel like it emphasizes their lack of significant other. Some also don't enjoy the holiday because, although they have a significant other, they feel that it's a capitalistic holiday that big corporations like Hallmark use to exploit people's feelings for one another in order to make money. While Valentine's Day is definitely a chance for companies to cash in with heart shaped balloons and giant chocolate hearts (which is not unlike every other holiday celebrated in the U.S.), that's not what Valentine's Day is about.

Valentine's Day was originally a day dedicated to St. Valentine, who was a Christian saint that was said to perform contraband weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry. He was eventually arrested and executed by the Romans for ministering to Christians. During the 18th century, Valentine's Day became associated with romance as men began to give flowers, candies and cards to the women they were courting. Today, Valentine's Day still carries the same meaning. It's a day for people to show their appreciation for their significant other through a small physical token.

In fact, Valentine's Day has expanded

from just couples to friends and even acquaintances. Children now exchange valentines with their friends and classmates. At the end of the day, they rush home to see how many goodies they received. While this may seem like a marketing ploy, it doesn't have to be. It's just as easy and more inexpensive to make someone something for Valentine's Day as it is to buy something. People also generally appreciate a hand-made gift rather than a store-bought one because while the store-bought gifts are flashier, they don't involve as much thought as hand-made ones.

Additionally, it's not required to give gifts for Valentine's Day. Your significant lover will like a night alone with you or a nice dinner just as well because they will feel appreciated. If you don't have a significant other, it's the perfect time to spend time with a close friend or family member and show your appreciation and love for them as well. It's also a good opportunity to ask someone out on a date if you don't want to spend the night alone. Don't allow yourself to be bothered by other people's romantic day, have one for yourself.

Valentine's Day is the perfect time to show the people you love and care about that you appreciate and are thinking of them. Don't worry about the monetary aspects and enjoy yourself.

BY AUSTIN BERRY
LAYOUT EDITOR

Not really.

Happy Singles Awareness Day! Err, no wait... Happy Capitalism Day!! Or maybe it is Happy Appreciate the Person You Love Day (even though you should do that every day, anyway?) Whatever you choose to call it, Valentine's Day is almost upon us. Oh boy.

If you couldn't tell from my characteristically sarcastic introduction, Valentine's Day is not my favorite of holidays. I prefer National Dress Like a Pirate Day (ahoy! and free doughnuts at Krispy Kreme). This is simply because it is just a way for companies to sell you merchandise that you can use to shower your significant other with love, affection and chocolate. Not that those are bad things, because they certainly are not -- everyone loves chocolate. As it so happens, I'm sitting here stuffing my face with it right now (the inspirational messages on the wrappers make me feel better about the world.) The problem is that, showing someone you love that you actually love them and appreciate their existence is something you should do anyway. Sure, Valentine's Day is a good way to create a reason to connect and to clear the calendar for some time together, but couples already have plenty of opportunities to celebrate. As is the trend now, you can easily make an anniversary out of any time period in a relationship. If you want an excuse to go out, just say it's the second and

a half anniversary of that one day you both did that one thing that one time. That's totally passable.

So, what can you do if you're gleefully unattached during this time of year? Normally, this is where I would spout off some ridiculous ideas that are meagerly funny in an attempt to be mildly entertaining, (drown yourself in chocolate and sing Adele to your cat!) but instead, I have a nugget of wisdom for you (don't act so surprised!) If you are single this Valentine's Day, one thing you can do is **LITERALLY, ACTUALLY ANYTHING YOU WANT**. Go have fun with friends, see a movie, watch Netflix in your bed with a big burrito to keep you company, play your music loud, party, flirt -- whatever you desire. You're not obligated to shop for presents, make plans, buy dinner or whatever else this holiday entails. Don't stress about not having to participate in giving Hallmark a crap-ton of your money, just be happy being yourself and not blowing bucks on overpriced cards and chocolate.

Whatever you choose to do this weekend and whomever you choose to do it with, just be safe and have fun. If you're celebrating with someone you love, remember that this isn't the only day to show them you care, and if you are a party of one, be happy about it. Or don't do anything I've said, I really don't care. I'm just going to sit here and finish my chocolate.

Whats your opinion? Tweet us @longwoodrotunda

—CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Dai and Shaq

At that point, their friendship truly exploded.

“When I (went) through stuff, he was an outlet that I could call and just talk to. I wouldn’t be judged and knew that he just always had good advice. He was always encouraging,” said Johnson.

Parker was a grade above Johnson, giving them a year as teammates at Milton High School before he graduated and headed to Tennessee, where he made his name as a guard at Vanderbilt University for three seasons. Johnson’s commitment to Auburn his junior year was decided in part because both universities belonged to the Southeastern Conference (SEC).

“I committed, in the eleventh grade, to an (SEC) school, just so I could play against him,” said Johnson.

When the time came for them to face each other in college, Johnson wasn’t let down, even though

Vanderbilt bested Auburn in both meetings.

“We got to guard each other, and that was fun; we were just making jokes the whole game,” he said.

When Johnson’s time at Auburn came to an end after his marijuana-related arrest, it was Parker who stayed with him and convinced him to look for another school. He encouraged Johnson to reach out and call another coach and earn another scholarship, resulting in his transfer to Longwood.

“Once I got in trouble there, you really see who your real friends are when you’re not at your best because a lot of people just leave or leave you behind or just be like, ‘oh, forget about him,’ but Dai-Jon, he didn’t at all,” said Johnson. “I feel like I owe him for a lot of stuff.”

When Parker passed, the loss of someone so important hit Johnson hard. He leaned less on his Longwood family for support and more on his teammates from Milton and his two mothers – his own and Parker’s. “His mom (was) my mom, my

mom (was) his mom,” explained Johnson.

Eric Riley, another former Milton High basketball player, had a brotherly relationship with both Parker and Johnson, as well. He was the oldest of the three. Riley had known Parker since the first grade and knew Johnson for the same period of time Parker did.

Riley understood why Johnson looked to the people he grew up with versus those in college.

“When somebody that is really close to you passes, you want to be around the people who actually know him and what type of person he was, and you want to just keep separate from everybody. People that wouldn’t know Dai-Jon as the person

he was, besides the sport he plays,” said Riley.

The difficulty of dealing with Parker’s death grew when Johnson returned to Longwood.

Though several players on the Longwood men’s basketball team can relate to losing loved ones at a young age, Johnson didn’t try to open up to them.

The closest one to his situation at Longwood is men’s basketball head coach Jayson Gee, who met Parker once, the same summer he recruited Johnson. “I talk to him (Gee) sometimes when I need to, but I’m a guy who really holds it in unless it really needs to come up,” said Johnson.

“I try to develop a love relationship with all of our players, and obviously, from where he’s come from, the strides he’s made, he and I have really gotten a whole lot closer, and I’m thankful that he holds me in such high esteem,” said Gee.

Since Parker’s death, Johnson looks at pictures of him every day for motivation in his life and his sport. Also, he looks to Parker’s mother for guidance and support.

“I want to do good things for her because she always tells me how I remind her of Dai-Jon,” he said.

Gee noticed how Parker’s memo-

“With all the stuff I’ve been through has made me realize that the game can be taken at any point, so it taught me to treat every game like its my last.”

*- Shaquille Johnson,
Longwood men’s basketball senior*



COURTESY OF BALLISLIFE.COM

Dai-Jon Parker (above) passed on Thursday, May 28, 2015. He was a former Vanderbilt basketball player, who attended Milton High School in Georgia.

ry pushes Johnson in times of everyday adversity faced by student-athletes.

“Dai-Jon’s memory has been inspir-

ing. When he’s (Johnson) having difficult in classes, Dai-Jon’s mom will call him off the cuff and just encourage him and remind him that she’s now living her dream through him and that we need him to keep going,” said Gee.

Since his return to the team, Johnson leads the team in assists, averaging 4.1, is second in rebounds with 7.2 per game and is one of the Lancers’ top scorers with 11.1 per game; all “for a bigger purpose” and “in loving memory of Dai-Jon,” he said.

“When he drowned, I was calm because I knew God was doing something for a reason; I just hate that it had to be him that was taken. But there’s nothing I can do. I can’t cry about it. I mean, I can, but I just go hard for him because that’s what I know he would have wanted.”



COURTESY OF SHAQUILLE JOHNSON

Shaquille Johnson, a senior on the Longwood men’s basketball team, gathers with former high school teammates from Milton, including Dai-Jon Parker. Johnson appears on the far left. Parker is on the left of the back row.

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Autumn Childress' big night not enough

UNC Asheville sneaks one out on the road to stay atop standings

BY DERRICK BENNINGTON
SPORTS STAFF
@DERRICK_BENN

Sophomore guard Autumn Childress led the way for Longwood (6-17, 3-11) with her first career double-double with 17 points and 12 rebounds, but it wasn't enough to fuel a comeback in a 61-54 loss to the UNC Asheville Bulldogs (10-4, 12-2) on Tuesday, Feb. 9.

Head women's basketball coach Bill Reinson said, "There's no doubt that Autumn Childress is one of our most talented players. Right now, she struggles a little bit with consistency, but when you get the good Autumn, it's terrific."

Reinson added, "She rebounds, she scores, she's active, she plays defense and that's what we saw tonight and if we can get that out of her consistently, we're going to be a much better team going forward."

The Bulldogs got strong performances from the three-headed monster of junior guard Chatori Major, junior forward Tianna Knuckles and sophomore guard Khaila Webb in a 61-54 win over the

Longwood Lancers at Willett Hall on Tuesday to improve to 8-1 on the road in Big South Conference play.

Webb paced the Bulldogs with 17 points and six rebounds, while Major tallied 11 and Knuckles added 10. Knuckles and Major were the top two three-point shooters in the Big South Conference coming in, but the Lancers were able to step up their defense allowing only two buckets from downtown.

"We were trying to switch everything, trying to not give them easy looks," said Reinson. "We did a good job for the most part; we did give them an easy look at the beginning of the third quarter and I got a little upset about it, but after that we switched out just like we were supposed to."

Reinson added, "We challenged shooters, we forced them to throw it inside, we fronted, and I think we did a pretty decent job at defending them."

UNC Asheville came in with the highest scoring offense as well at 71 points per game, but the Lancer defense stepped up and forced 14 turnovers to slow down the

attack.

"They were a team that scores 70-75 points a game and they had 61, but the last six we gave to them at the free throw line," said Reinson.

Childress said, "Asheville's a great team, but just being able to hang with them throughout the game gives us a lot of confidence going on."

Longwood was down by 10 entering the fourth before Childress' back-to-back buckets made it just a five-point game.

Childress said, "When we get down, sometimes we tend to give up, but he told us this game that we can't give up and he said in the locker room that no one looked like they gave up and everyone kept fighting."

Foul trouble and points in the paint made all the difference as the Bulldogs outscored the Lancers 26-16 in the paint and turned 24 Lancer fouls into 23 made free throws.

The Lancers will take on Campbell University this Saturday, Feb. 13 while the first-place Bulldogs take on the Liberty Flames at home.



MATT ALEXANDER | ONLINE EDITOR
Sophomore guard Autumn Childress earned her first career double-double on Feb. 9.

MBB: Lancers outlast Charleston Southern in double overtime

Nwogbo leads Longwood to hard-fought win over Buccaneers

BY TRISTAN PENNA
CONTRIBUTOR

The Longwood men's basketball team came out on top in a double overtime thriller over Charleston Southern University on the road, 78-76. The win brings the Lancers to 8-17 on the season, while the Buccaneers to 8-16.

The Feb. 6 win was the team's second-straight, coming after another dramatic late win over Campbell at home.

In a tight contest with 12 lead changes, it was the Lancers who kept their composure late. Redshirt senior guard Tra'Vaughn White sunk a pair of free throws to give Longwood a 2-point lead with 30 seconds

remaining. The Buccaneers had two opportunities to retake the lead, but were denied as the Lancers went home with the win.

Not only was it a crucial Big South victory, the win at Charleston Southern was also a milestone for redshirt senior center Lotanna Nwogbo. Nwogbo returned to the court where he suffered a season-ending thumb injury last season, missing the final 17 games.

Head coach Jayson Gee spoke about the impact of Nwogbo's injury, and how the center stepped up for the Lancers in the clutch.

"I got emotional talking about him, the impact he's made and how big this was to

regain his two legs on this court," Gee said on the official Longwood athletics website. "Lotanna (Nwogbo) was a man out there... I usually sub him, but I told him he can get a sub on the bus. He's not coming out of this game."

Nwogbo delivered a standout performance, collecting a double-double with a team-leading 19 points, 13 rebounds and four blocks, in 45 minutes of action.

Another player put injury issues behind him as senior forward Shaquille Johnson came off the bench in his second game since returning from an ankle injury. Johnson contributed both offensively, with nine points and six assists, and defensively, with seven rebounds and five steals.

Two other Lancers reached double-figures in points, including 17 from White and sophomore guard Kanayo Obi-Rapu Jr.

"I don't think we could have won this game earlier in the season," Nwogbo said on the official Longwood athletics website. "We would have folded, at least by the first overtime, if we were even able to get to that point. We've gotten a lot better physically and mentally. We've gotten stronger, and that's what you saw tonight."

Longwood will look to continue their streak when they go on the road again to face Big South No. 3 Winthrop on Feb. 11. The Eagles are 16-7.

Final destination: Division I

Junior college transfer and top rebounder Eboni Gilliams details journey to Longwood

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For Eboni Gilliam, the drive to play Division I basketball outweighed the difficulty of the long path ahead of her to perform at that level of competition.

The first step was to leave her community college in Nebraska to journey south and play for Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington, North Carolina.

“When I had to switch schools, I realized that this was a sport that I really wanted to play,” she said. “I just knew that I didn’t want to give up. I knew that it was my passion. I wanted to keep going (and) I wanted to find another way that I can play and be on someone’s team and make a difference.”

So she played for the Cape Fear Sea Devils for two years to hone her skills and better develop herself as a player. During her time there, Gilliam posted 33 double-doubles and was named first team All-Region both seasons. She was also a two-time team captain and during her sophomore year, averaged 13.6 points and 10.2 rebounds.

Longwood was familiar with the Richmond native coming out of Lloyd C. Bird High School. They saw her during a Richmond tournament and were excited to see how much she had improved during her time at Cape Fear.

“She was always very physical, could go around the basket, but she had her little jumper,” said Longwood women’s basketball head coach Bill Reinson. “She always played hard. We felt she’d be a great fit.”

How did Longwood convince the junior college standout to come to Longwood?

“Karaoke,” said Reinson with a chuckle.

“We’re a good group. I mean, we’re fun to be around, and if you’ve hung around us long enough, it’s an easy group to fit into, so it’s got a family feel.”

Gilliam said she knew about Longwood’s struggles as she considered transferring, but was really attracted to the team’s familial bond.

“When I came here, I knew they had a losing record. I knew a lot of the players were injured. When I came on my visit, everyone just seemed like a family and everyone cared about each other. Just being so close together, I knew that if we just bonded and if I could just step up and try to make a difference then it would be fine and we could work something out,” she said.

It was then that Gilliam made the choice to come to Longwood University, becoming the first Lady Sea Devil to sign with a Division I school.

Once at Longwood, Gilliam said she had to adjust to the quicker pacing of Division I. With a handle on the speed, she has made a major impact on the team. Currently, she leads the team in rebounds and is a top 10 rebounder in the Big South.

“I made a couple of goals for myself and I hadn’t really reached them yet, but it just feels good just to know that, you know, I’m coming in here doing what I can impacting the team in my first year,” said Gilliam.

In Longwood’s recent loss against Charleston Southern, she had her second double-double of the season, sinking 18 points along with 14 rebounds, a game-high. For the week of Feb. 8, Gilliam was also one of the nominees for the Big South Conference’s Player of the Week.

“She (Gilliam) works hard every day in practice. She does the dirty work underneath for us. She rebounds, she plays around the hoop, she defends bigger players and she’s a positive attitude on the court,” praised Reinson.

Gilliam has impacted both the team’s stat sheet and culture with her positivity.

“Eboni is probably the most positive person on our team and not having her last year, like, that adds something to our team,” said sophomore guard and friend Micaela Ellis. “When we lose games or we get down on each other, she’s one to usually like step in and keep your spirits high and stuff like that. You can pretty much count on her to be the positive influence.”

Ellis added that Gilliam has easily transitioned to become another member of



MATT ALEXANDER | ONLINE EDITOR

Junior forward Eboni Gilliam’s series of transfers around the country came to a halt when she arrived at Longwood, landing a spot in the world of Division I basketball.

their basketball family.

“If you didn’t know our team and you came in, you probably wouldn’t be able to tell she’s a transfer. You’d probably think she’s been here with us all her three years.”

For Gilliam, the sport she loves is an outlet. It’s her passion and it has given her a new family to bond with while facing their current struggles.

“I love the sport to death, I wouldn’t change it for anything,” said Gilliam.

“We laugh together all the time and even though there are bad days, like, we still try to find, like, different ways to make the day better, or make practice better or make the game better. Just trying to stay positive.”

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