

# THE ROTUNDA

*Balling and bawling since 1920!*



Harlem Globetrotters in JPB, March 14, 2025  
Savannah Bartlett / The Rotunda

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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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## **Q: Where does The Rotunda get its funding?**

-The Rotunda is funded through Student Activity Fees, allocated to The Rotunda by the Student Government Association (SGA) during the budgeting process. Our budget is overseen by our Business Manager.

## **Q: Does Longwood's Administration control what The Rotunda publishes?**

--No. No content published by The Rotunda is controlled or censored by any outside organization, or seen by members of Longwood's Administration prior to publication.

## **Q: What role do The Rotunda's Faculty Advisers play in the organization?**

-Faculty Advisers are advisers – not writers, editors or publishers. They do not approve content prior to publication or make decisions for the newspaper. Instead, they offer their advice and expertise to members of the organization. The Rotunda currently has four advisers, all Communication Studies faculty members who offer guidance to various sections.

## **Q: How much of an edition is made up of student-made content?**

-All of it. Everything seen in a print edition (including articles, photos, crosswords, layout, and other content) is made by students unless noted.

## **Q: How do I join The Rotunda?**

-Simply by attending a meeting (Mondays at 7pm in Upchurch 204) or setting up a one-on-one meeting with an Editor. Interested in joining? Reach out to our email, [therotunda@live.longwood.edu](mailto:therotunda@live.longwood.edu).

# BOARD OF VISITORS APPROVES DEI RESOLUTION, REVELEY AFFIRMS LONGWOOD “IN GOOD STEAD”

By Tyler Bagent | Editor-in-Chief | @tillerbagel

At their meeting on March 21, the Longwood University Board of Visitors approved a resolution regarding actions and guidance from the federal and state government against diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programs, which addressed matters of compliance but stopped far short of measures taken by other Virginia colleges and universities to dissolve offices related to DEI.

The Board met on March 21 in an abbreviated meeting to approve promotion and tenure for faculty members.

At the meeting, the Board approved a resolution titled “Resolution of Longwood University Regarding the Presidential Executive Order on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion” to address federal and state guidance on DEI.

While the resolution does not outline any specific changes, it states the University will, “ensure that all University programs, policies, practices, and actions in every regard comply with the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other federal civil rights laws.”

According to an email statement to The Rotunda on April 1, McWilliams said the vote to approve the resolution was unanimous.

In an email to Faculty and Staff on March 25, University President W. Taylor Reveley IV stated the measure “confirms our commitment to intellectual diversity and to continuing to follow all applicable laws with regards to non-discrimination.”

He added, “I do not believe we should or must change course in any significant way.”

This resolution is far less wide-reaching than actions taken by other Virginia institutions. The University of Virginia (UVA), Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), Virginia Tech and the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) have terminated their DEI offices and practices.

Similarly, according to reporting from Axios, Christopher Newport University (CNU) and James Madison University (JMU) have removed DEI resources from their websites.

At Longwood, few changes have been noted as of publication. On the Office of Multicultural Affairs webpage on Longwood’s website, a statement about diversity, equity and inclusion was removed from the top. The page was previously subtitled, “Diversity is a Fact, Inclusion is a Practice, and Equity is the Goal,” which is no longer there — among other changes.

Reveley spoke at the Closing Faculty Meeting on March 27 in Blackwell Ballroom, where he shared updates on Longwood’s response to federal and state guidance — as well as numerous worries and concerns he has about political developments.

In the beginning of his remarks, Reveley said he will ensure Longwood is in good standing going forward. “I am doing everything I can... to keep us in good stead and keep threats away,” he said.

He referred to the resolution passed by the Board of Visitors as a “compliance

or due diligence document that’s different than the type of resolution several other places around the state passed.”

Reveley expressed his concern for students’ mental health and worries in the current political environment and said, “It doesn’t break my heart that plenty of students are living in a Longwood bubble and are not highly attuned to what’s going on.”

However, he added, “That is utterly not true of everybody. Others are worried about their family finances. They’re worried about their immigration status. They’re worried about a lot, and this is already in a generation that has mental health challenges.”

Reveley took questions near the end of the meeting, and in response to criticism from a faculty member regarding his comment that students aren’t attuned to these issues, said, “I certainly don’t encourage that... More, I guess just taking cognizance of the fact that’s the spot some are in.”

Professor of Education Dr. Sara Miller, also during Q&A, noted to Reveley, “I was really dismayed [about the BOV resolution]... I feel like the perception for a lot of people is that we caved.”

As part of his response, Reveley said, “Everything we were doing a month ago, or a year ago, or a decade ago, we are doing now and going forward.”

**The Rotunda will continue to follow this developing story.**

# CHIEF COMER ADDRESSES STUDENT CONCERNS AS ICE ACTIVITY INCREASES NATIONALLY

By Jordan McPherson | Incoming News and Features Editor | @longwoodrotunda

On Feb. 13, Longwood Chief of Police and Assistant Vice President for Public Safety Angela Comer held a “Let’s Talk About It: Know Your Rights” session in response to student concerns about possible Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity on college campuses.

According to Comer, she and other Virginia college and university police chiefs met in February with members of the governor’s cabinet and several representatives from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) who confirmed college campuses are not their focus.

In an interview with The Rotunda on March 13, Comer said, “I had spoken to some students and the rumors of [ICE] coming on campuses and doing raids on campuses. Many students wanted to understand what the rights were, what was the different type of enforcement they could do.”

At the February meeting, college police chiefs had their own concerns addressed. “Their focus was serious criminal violators, and that wasn’t something that they had seen or had been given information that was happening on campus,” said Comer.

When federal law enforcement come into local jurisdiction, they notify local law enforcement beforehand. Comer said, “We did get the assurance if they’re making those notifications if they’re coming to our campus... campus police is local police, so that’s the first contact.”

As far as where ICE can go on campus, Comer said, “My understanding is that it’s a public university and they can access public areas.” Public areas include academic spaces where class is

not in session, the Dorrill Dining Hall, Upchurch University Center, the Joan Perry Brock Center, among others.

“I would say where you live, you have an expectation of privacy... but on a public university, pretty much everywhere else is public,” said Comer.

According to an FAQ from the Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, alongside Cornell Law School and Penn State’s Center for Immigrants’ Rights Clinic, nonpublic spaces include areas restricted by a university-issued ID card, residence halls, faculty and administrator offices, classrooms in session, among other settings.

The FAQ was created following a move from DHS which rescinded a 2021 memorandum from the Biden Administration limiting immigration enforcement in “sensitive areas,” such as K-12 schools, colleges and universities and hospitals.

DHS and ICE vehicles may be seen around town as they drive to and from their various offices or the Abyon Farmville Detention Center. Additionally, they appear on campus around two times a year to review student records of immigration status — something they have always done, according to Comer.

“They come on campus because we have foreign students on foreign student visas, so there are administrative things like forms and documentation that they will come to the registrar’s office or the admissions office to review. They still usually contact us first to say they’re coming, and the registrar’s office tells them to do so,” said Comer.

For international students, Comer recognized the concern of being asked about immigration status. She mentioned international students potentially keeping proof of immigration status on them — while emphasizing that is a personal choice and not required.

“You have rights, the same rights. Everybody has the right to remain silent, the right to the attorney. You just have to choose when you exercise those rights and how you exercise those rights,” she said.

“It’s upsetting, it’s disappointing that that’s what we’re worried about in this formative time of our students’ lives — that they’re worried about these things,” said Comer. “But our students are resilient, and we also have resources for them so they don’t have to take it on themselves.”

Comer offered a variety of resources for students. “You see agents and you’re concerned... that’s the call to 911 or 2091, or you can do See Something, Say Something anonymous reporting,” said Comer. Students can also contact LUPD at [police@longwood.edu](mailto:police@longwood.edu).

Additionally, the Student Support team consists of the offices of Global Engagement, Multicultural Affairs, Dean of Students, Student Affairs, Housing and Campus Police.

“Those are places you can go for resources or direction if it’s a question or a concern. And depending on what the concern is, you can pick from those people,” said Comer.

Comer will host additional “Let’s Talk About It” sessions advertised through the Calendar of Events, Student Engagement and on Instagram at [@chiefc\\_longwood\\_lupd](https://www.instagram.com/chiefc_longwood_lupd).

# NEW FOIA DOCUMENTS SHOW \$601,865 IN LOCAL FUNDS RESTORED TO ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS

By Tyler Bagent | Editor-in-Chief | @tillerbagel

According to university documents obtained through the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), university officials have restored \$601,865.73 to academic departmental local accounts as of Feb. 28, 2025 after two large restorations on Nov. 13, 2024 and Feb. 21, 2025.

The FOIA request was filed by The Rotunda on Feb. 13 and returned on Feb. 28, after a delay due to inclement weather and officials' request for more time to respond.

The request asked for a record of all deployments of local funds since September 2024, a record of local funds not yet restored as part of University President W. Taylor Reveley IV's promise to restore swept local funds, and relevant communications from Vice President for Administration and Finance Matt McGregor, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Larissa Smith, and Vice President for Institutional Advancement Courtney Hodges.

University officials responded with a 171-page document primarily comprised of emails from Smith informing department chairs of the restoration, but also a record of restorations to local accounts within Academic Affairs and an email from University Spokesperson and Deputy

to the President Matt McWilliams to Smith and McGregor sent on Feb. 28 to put local funds information in one place for future reference.

The documents also include a list of 92 accounts which had local funds restored, including \$40,000 to "Eng & Mod Lan", \$35,000 to "Nurse Sim. Lab," \$30,000 to "Library Operating," \$12,000 to "Coll Business" and a variety of other accounts and amounts.

Furthermore, not all accounts had their full amounts restored. For example, of the \$40,000 swept from the Cormier Honors College, listed "VPAA 070-030-0102 Cormier Honor" in the August FOIA documents, only half was restored.

In the Feb. 28 email to McGregor and Smith, McWilliams wrote, "A significant portion of the June sweep was of Athletics and Advancement funds, which at any given summer are drawn down normally at the end of the fiscal year."

He added, "The remaining \$1.6 million had two parts – a) roughly \$1 million of normal endowment yield, which we have to spend on an annual basis, and which is replenished each May from investment earnings, and b) roughly \$600,000 of departmental local funds made up of annual giving."

**"That third part – the \$600,000 of departmental local funds that came from annual giving is what was promised to be replenished in full," he wrote.**

In addition to this, the restoration also did not include accounts falling under Student Affairs. According to the FOIA documents provided to The Rotunda in August, accounts such as "Stud Affairs," "LU Cares Eme," "Campus Rec," "F & S Life," "Club Sports," among others had funds swept in June. Also not included in the restoration was the \$30,000 swept from the "Moton Operat" account.

In an email statement to The Rotunda on March 4 in response to a follow up question, McWilliams wrote, "The accounts that were replenished were departmental local accounts that are used to supplement annual operations of those academic departments in a way that E&G dollars often cannot be used. Student Affairs departments and the Moton Museum operate under fewer restrictions and have other sources of funding they can use for earmarked operations, like Advancement or Athletics. The Moton Museum in its partnership with the University also receives annual support for personnel, operations, and building maintenance."

When asked via email if Student Affairs operational budgets received funds from the university to supplement the loss of swept local funds, McWilliams wrote, “Yes, the university continues to fund these departments annually.”

According to an email statement to The Rotunda on March 5 in response to a question about where restoration funds were sourced from, McGregor wrote, “Funds were transferred from the Longwood Fund account which is an unrestricted philanthropic account used to support general operations.”

As reported by The Rotunda in August, the June sweep of local funds resulted in frustration and concerns from faculty members over a perceived lack of transparency and communication. Faculty Senate Chair and Professor of Sociology Dr. Lee Bidwell said in an interview on August 9, “What I’m hearing [from faculty members] is grave concern about the lack of communication.”

In an interview on March 7, 2025, Bidwell said that some concerns have persisted into the Spring semester. “I think some faculty might feel more trust, other faculty might feel less, and for some it’s no change. I would say that overall there still is a sense of distrust of the administration after the sweeping of the funds,” she said.

Bidwell said there is “frustration that not all of the money that was taken was restored, because the interest that came from endowed funds was not restored, but other local funds were.” She also said there is “trepidation” among the faculty that a sweep like the one in June may happen again.

She said, “There’s still a lot in flux because of what’s happening nationally right now and at the state level, but I wish I could say I don’t think it would happen again... I wish I could be confident.”

According to publicly available minutes of the President’s Advisory Council (PAC) meeting on Feb. 25, PAC members spoke to Reveley about trust and transparency. In attendance at the meeting was Reveley, Bidwell,



*President Reveley at Budget Forum, Sept. 24, 2024  
Savannah Barilett / The Rotunda*

Faculty Senate Vice Chair Dr. Eric Hodges, Faculty Representative to the Board of Visitors Dr. Lisa Kinzer, Dr. Darrell Carpenter and Dr. Benjamin Topham.

According to a summary of the conversation in the minutes, “[Bidwell] explained that the surprising sweep of local funds last summer, which occurred after repeated assurances that the university’s budget situation was strong, resulted in mistrust of the President. The climate of mistrust has fueled rumors about the fiscal strength of the university”

The minutes also state, “the president categorically denied there was any truth to rumors that Longwood is experiencing financial difficulty.” Bidwell, asked about this specifically during the interview, said, “Do I still worry about the financial health of the university despite those reassurances? Yes.”

According to the minutes, PAC members encouraged Reveley to create opportunities for dialogue in order to improve trust in the administration and expressed willingness to work with him in order to repair trust. “PAC members suggested that meetings about budget and other campus concerns should provide an opportunity for open dialogue, rather than be formal presentations,” the minutes state.

Bidwell said during the interview,

“The President volunteered and offered to come to Faculty Senate on [March 6] and to explain some things that were coming from the federal government and offer opportunities for people to ask questions. He came at the beginning of the faculty meeting and at the end of the faculty senate meeting to answer any casual questions that faculty had. I think that’s an indication that he was trying to be more open in terms of communication.”

According to McWilliams in the FOIA documents, the most recent restoration of local funds took place on Feb. 21, the Friday before Love Your Longwood Day. Smith informed academic department chairs and deans of the restoration on the night of Feb. 24, the day prior to Love Your Longwood Day.

She wrote, “This is [the] first of a series of emails I will be sending this week to academic departments and deans about FY25 budgets and about FY26 budget planning. This email focuses on local funds. The restoration of local funds has been completed.”

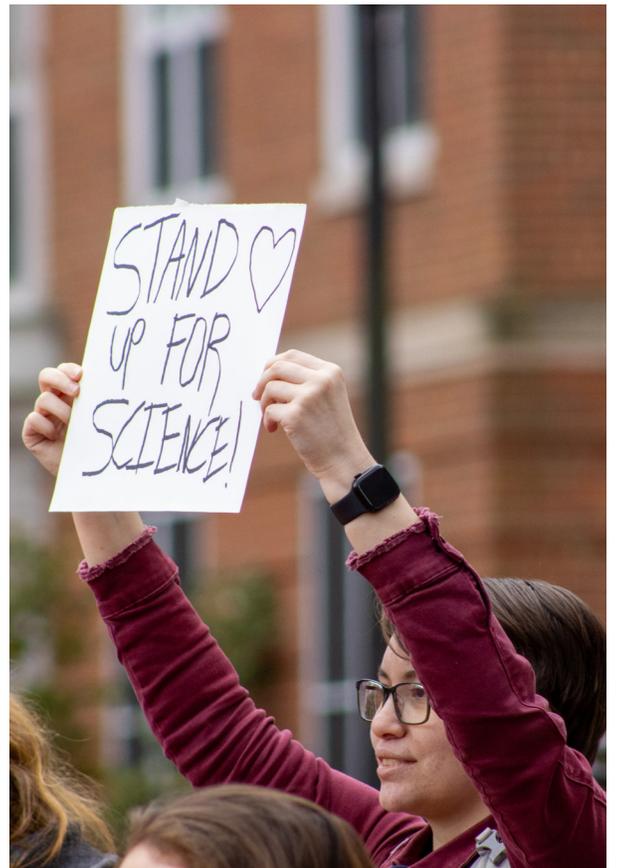
Love Your Longwood Day took place on Feb. 25, and according to their website, raised \$907,847 and received 2,192 gifts from 1,474 donors.

**All referenced sources can be found linked on our website, [therotundaonline.com](https://therotundaonline.com).**

# PHOTO GALLERY



Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Probate, March 22, 2025  
Savannah Bartlett / The Rotunda



Stand Up for Science Protest, March 7, 2025  
Tyler Bagent / The Rotunda



NAACP Black Is Gala, March 22, 2025  
Savannah Bartlett / The Rotunda



Globetrotters Autograph Line, March 14, 2025  
Savannah Bartlett / The Rotunda



Bone Marrow Registry Tabling, March 17, 2025  
Tyler Bagent / The Rotunda



*The Big Event, March 22, 2025  
Savannah Bartlett / The Rotunda*



*Women's Basketball v. USC Upstate, March 1, 2025  
Savannah Bartlett / The Rotunda*



*Harlem Globetrotters in JPB, March 14, 2025  
Savannah Bartlett / The Rotunda*



*Stand Up for Science Protest, March 7, 2025  
Tyler Bagent / The Rotunda*



*The MISTER Experience, Feb. 24, 2024  
Savannah Bartlett / The Rotunda*

# SEED TAKES ROOT

## FARMVILLE'S NEW INNOVATION HUB



By: Alyssa Robertson | Incoming Opinions and Copy Editor | @longwoodrotunda

Farmville is preparing for change with the opening of SEED, the innovation hub located in Longwood Landings, on May 3, 2025. With the help of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), SEED aims to provide a space where community members and students can bring an idea for a product and turn it into a prototype that can be pitched to banks, investors or angel funders.

SEED will offer workshops with training for every piece of equipment. Resources include 3D printing, sewing, virtual reality tools, music recording studios, video production resources and more. It will also provide Longwood classes with access to its resources, along with programs for the community.

SEED director Evan Jones said the innovation hub is to become a “third space” — separate from home and work, and to allow Farmville another place to build community. “This is the third spot... a third space where community members, students, faculty, can mingle together and share ideas and sit out here, eat their Chick-Fil-A and just become a tighter knit community and work together,” Jones said.

According to Longwood Associate Vice President for Community and Economic Development Sheri McGuire, initial funding enabled Longwood to conduct a study with an architectural firm to determine how best to utilize a 10,000-square-foot vacant space which had been empty for years.

“We did some community input sessions, and from there, realized that the makerspaces, the co-working space, the digital innovation lab, [and] the SBDC could all function very well together in this space,” she said.

The results of this study led to a plan that secured initial grant funding from the Virginia Tobacco Commission, which provided the first installment toward construction. GO Virginia funded equipment and furnishings, while the U.S. Economic Development Administration supported the remaining construction. In total, over \$3 million in grant funds have been secured, making the project almost entirely grant-funded.

SEED will feature entrepreneurial training and consulting with goals to increase business growth, jobs, capital and tax revenue. Offerings will include ideation and prototyping, a digital innovation lab and collaborative spaces.

They plan to have growth labs which provide structured consulting for business strategies that can help the community tackle real-world challenges, and entrepreneurship studies which allow Longwood and Hampden-Sydney to lead collaborative courses. This includes shared classes, minors, Civitae innovation courses and more.

They are also offering hands-on opportunities for Longwood students qualified for Federal Work Study, and eventually, Longwood Work Study. “I think this can be one of the spaces where students help us run this place and gain job experience while they’re doing it,” Director of Educational Innovation and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems Jacob Dolence said.

Additionally, Longwood students potentially have the opportunity to mentor K-12 students on CAD modeling and 3D printing projects. SEED envisions volunteers, students, and community members collaborating — whether teaching how to use equipment, creating media projects or even helping others learn new skills.

SEED offers opportunities for students across a variety of majors, not just those in STEM fields. McGuire and Dolence noted they have a wide variety of campus partners, including many academic departments such as the College of Education, Health, and Human Services, the College of Business and Economics (CBE), English, Communication Studies and more.

Hampden-Sydney Demo Day, April 22, is open to Longwood students and allows them to showcase innovation or business ideas. Participants will present their projects to judges and compete for prizes.

SEED officially opens on May 3, and staff members are working to make sure things go smoothly upon launch. “We’re... in that soft opening phase, there are going to be hiccups that we do not want to face after we’ve done a ribbon cutting. And so getting people in here, us[ing] the equipment, us[ing] the machines, particularly knowledgeable people who can look at a process for a machine,” Jones said.

To learn more, visit: [seedva.org](https://seedva.org) or [seed\\_innovation\\_hub](#) on Instagram.

"Little Women," Feb. 18, 2025  
Savannah Bartlett / The Rotunda

# "LITTLE WOMEN," BIG PERFORMANCES



by Brandi Dawson | Incoming Arts & Entertainment Editor | @longwoodrotunda

Longwood's theatre production of "Little Women" was exceptional, with a perfect balance between the acting aspect and the musical aspect. All of the actors in this production did a fabulous job in telling the story. Not only did the acting blow me away, but the production design was really well done and the production crew did a good job of helping clarify where the scene was taking place. The production of "Little Women" was a success in all aspects and set the standards high for future productions at Longwood.

While everyone in the cast put on a wonderful performance, I have to specifically give praise to Raine Bence (Jo March) and Addie Snyder (Beth March). Their vocal talent was exceptional: Bence has a huge range and Snyder's voice is one of the prettiest I have ever heard in a school production. These two powerhouses had a duet together, *Some Things Are Meant to Be*, in Act 2, and I definitely shed some tears during that song. It truly was a beautiful performance. When it comes to the acting portion, I was specifically impressed with Jayden Crouch, who played a few roles, like Mr. Laurence and Professor Bhaer. He brought a perfect balance of humor, emotion, and expression to the stage.

Emma Shepperson and Yasmin Lopez appeared as the other two March sisters, Amy and Meg. These two played their roles perfectly with Emma properly portraying

Amy as the whiny, but intelligent younger sister and Yasmin perfectly representing Meg as the responsible and nurturing older sister. Shawn Winder played a wonderful Laurie, showing off his charming and lively spirit, with a side of humor and mischief. Everyone in this cast played their characters excellently, with Alyssa Malcolm as Aunt March, Jesse Blankenship as John Brooke, and Abby Kesling as Marmee March. I enjoyed that this play gave the actors the opportunity to show off their vocal talent and their performance skills.

The orchestra and production crew also deserve to be applauded. The music was beautiful and the show would not have been the same without the orchestra present. The costumes were stunning and the lighting, sound, and choreography were also well done. You can tell that a lot of hard work was put into this production. The only criticism I could think of for this play would be some line deliveries at specific points, only because some lines were delivered with little to no emotion.

Overall, the Longwood production of "Little Women" was amazing and I was really impressed with everyone's performances. I applaud all of the actors and the crew for their hard work, because their efforts were really evident — and I would highly recommend coming out to their next production!

**4.5/5**

# WATERWORKS' "APPROPRIATE:"

## AN OUTSTANDING PRODUCTION OF AN IMPORTANT PLAY

Editor's Note: Contains spoilers for "Appropriate," which includes potentially disturbing content.

By Tyler Bagent | Editor-in-Chief | @tillerbagel

Tucked at the far west end of Farmville – past main campus, Lancer Park and Centra – sits Waterworks Players, Farmville's community theatre. From Feb. 15 through Feb. 23, Waterworks put on their production of "Appropriate," the Tony Award-winning play written by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins.

"Appropriate" is the story of a family coming to terms with their family's history of racism — finding a photo album and "trophies" from lynchings as they handle their late father's plantation home and estate.

Major characters include Antoinette "Toni" Lafayette (Dr. Leigh Lunsford), the eldest sister, her teenage son Rhys Thurston (Logan Schock), Beauregarde "Bo" Lafayette (Erik Varela), the middle brother, his wife Rachael Kramer-Lafayette (Dr. Sarah Varela), their children Cassidy and Ainsley (Audrey Kott and Grayson Clabo), the youngest son Francois "Frank" or "Franz" Lafayette (Eric Hooper), and his fiance River Rayner (Jordan McPherson).

Throughout the play, there exist many different dynamics between the characters. Franz returns to atone and apologize for his past to the intense suspicion of Toni, Bo experiences severe financial stress, Toni and Rachael find themselves at each other's throats, Toni desperately tries to forge a relationship with her son, and characters seem to often encourage Cassidy to lust for Rhys (her first cousin).

The play relies very heavily on shock, leaving the audience either stunned, uncomfortable, or a strange mix of both. For example, Toni — rejecting accusations of antisemitism against her father — responds angrily to Rachael, culminating in Toni using an anti-semitic slur against her. At another point, the audience is left alone with Rhys as he looks at the photo album before putting it aside and pleasuring himself (while watching on his phone what one can infer to be two men having sex)

and being caught by Franz. Late in the play, we find out the horrifying nature of Franz's past — that he's a sex-offender who impregnated a 12-year-old girl and got her pregnant.

That said, the most notable of these came at the end of the second act, where Ainsley (the young son of Bo and Rachael) walks down the stairs during a family fight wearing a Klu Klux Klan hood.

The program gives six definitions for the word "appropriate," all of which interestingly apply to the play. Most interestingly, at least to me, the idea of cultural appropriation seems to be a common thread throughout the play. Not because any of the characters are necessarily appropriating black culture, but because they are appropriating the pain of those impacted by their father's racism.

Most of the characters see the photos of lynchings as objects rather than looking at what they represent. In fact, the characters eventually decide to sell the photos in order to pay off debt their father left behind.

The play has an all-white cast for a reason. "Appropriate" focuses on the white reaction to historical racism — an objectively poor one. While the play is about the photo album and how the family reacts, the audience gets lost in the family drama alongside the characters. When the play reminds you of the greater context (the history, the photo album and their father's racism), it hits you with it.

All around, the cast's performances were incredible — another example of local, community theatre punching far above its weight. However, Lunsford's performance as Toni was the standout. Toni's character is the product of how families treat eldest sisters — as the babysitters and caretakers, always left to be the villain. The play is designed to make you hate Toni, and admittedly, it is very easy to. However, I

was left with nothing but sadness for her as the show ended.

She is jaded, angry and exhausted, and Lunsford was able to give justice to the complicated backstory of Toni.

Another incredible performance was that of Hooper, who played perhaps the most challenging role of them all. Franz's character is intensely complicated, fighting to prove to his family that he's a changed man. Hooper's performance adds to the complexity of Franz's character, making you genuinely believe he's changed. His interactions with River, despite Toni referring to her as a "walking rape-fantasy," seem real. Franz also genuinely tries to help mentor Rhys, though awkwardly and not particularly well.

The revelation of Franz's past rips away some of the trust the audience had built with him. I was left incredibly conflicted with his character, and I'm still not entirely sure how I feel.

My other standout performance came from S. Varela, who played Rachael. Her character was, in many ways, set forth to be the "nagging wife" stereotype, also playing into the fact she was easily the most liberal of the characters. She was the first to note her father-in-law's past anti-semitic remarks, and in turn, ended up in screaming matches with Toni at various points.

S. Varela managed to pull off her character very effectively, her fights with Lunsford's character felt intensely natural. At one point, Rachael refers to Toni as the c-word, over and over again. However, it didn't feel forced or inauthentic. Her lines didn't

feel purely for shock value, she yelled them and she meant them. While a product of excellent playwriting, S. Varela pulled it off based on her acting ability.

I would also be remiss if I did not mention the actual production. At the end, the set fell apart to represent the passage of time — culminating in a construction worker coming in to condemn the property, the final scene of the play. It was intensely impressive and well-executed.

I am more divided on some of the sound elements. The cicadas, a staple of the American South, added a nice touch to the context of the story. However, at some points, the sound elements were either delayed or too quiet. For example, in the scene intended to reveal that Rhys is closeted, the volume was too low and you couldn't tell what he was watching.

All in all, however, this production of "Appropriate" was excellent — and I can without hesitation say I am glad to have watched it. Director Sean Dowse and the Waterworks' team put on an excellent performance. While the writing of Jacobs-Jenkins is nothing short of genius, it is the cast and crew that brought the story to life.

While the run of "Appropriate" has ended, Waterworks will continue. Next, S. Varela will direct John Logan's "Red" in late-April to early-May. I will be there, I hope you will be as well.

Jordan McPherson is a member of The Rotunda's staff.

4.5/5



Waterworks' "Appropriate"  
Photo by Dr. Alec Hosterman

By Chris Matthey | Sports Editor | @MattheyChris33

The Longwood Lancers women's basketball team fell short of winning the Big South tournament and securing a bid to the NCAA tournament. However, they still participated in the Women's National Invitational Tournament, their first time in the postseason since their only NCAA tournament appearance in 2022. Picked seventh out of nine teams in the Big South preseason poll, the Lancers won 22 games this season, which is the second time in their Division I history they have reached the 20-win mark.

Defense was the identity of this team. Graduate Student guard Kiki McIntyre led the entire country in total steals and did so for most of the season. She was named Big South defensive player of the year and a member of the Big South all-conference second team. Sophomore guard Amor Harris was also named to the second team all-conference. She led the Lancers in scoring this season, averaging 11 points per game following the 2023-24 season, where she did not see much action.

Head Coach Erika Lang-Montgomery, in her third season with the program, turned

nine wins from last season into 22. She was named Big South Coach of the Year behind her dominant defense. She implemented a full-court pressing style that flattened teams in the Big South and in the non-conference slate. The Lancers forced 24 turnovers per game, a figure that clearly left them full of confidence when they were set to play USC Upstate in the quarterfinals of the Big South Tournament.

Longwood's defense completely suffocated USC Upstate in the Big South quarterfinals, surrendering only 37 points and forcing 32 turnovers. "We've been pretty consistent with [our defense] all year," said Lang-Montgomery. "This is the time of the year when we need it to be at its best"

The Lancers faced in-state rival Radford in the semifinals and weathered the Highlanders' three point barrage and won 73-65. Longwood was championship bound for a chance to play in the NCAA tournament. The Lancers would be pitted against one-seeded High Point.

Though the Lancers had the lead going into the fourth quarter in the championship game, the Panthers roared back and stole the game

as Longwood only scored six fourth-quarter points. High Point won the game 59-53. "I am still incredibly proud of the young women I get to coach every day," Lang-Montgomery said. "I am hopeful that maybe there is a chance we can continue to play in the postseason."

Her wish became reality, as Longwood accepted an invitation from the Women's National Invitation Tournament (WNIT). The Lancers drew Duquesne University in round one. The Lancers played well in Pittsburgh, maintaining the lead throughout most of the game. However, Longwood saw their lead dwindle as the clock kept ticking. Duquesne hit a buzzer-beater to win 70-68, breaking Longwood hearts and ending their record-setting season.

**With most of the team returning for next season, the future looks bright for the resurging Lancers. "I have a bunch of young women that like to compete... I love their competitive spirit," Lang-Montgomery said. "I love who they are as people. These are high-quality women I get to spend time with every day."**

# LONGWOOD WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: A HISTORIC SEASON

IN THE REAR VIEW



# THE ROTUNDA CROSSWORD

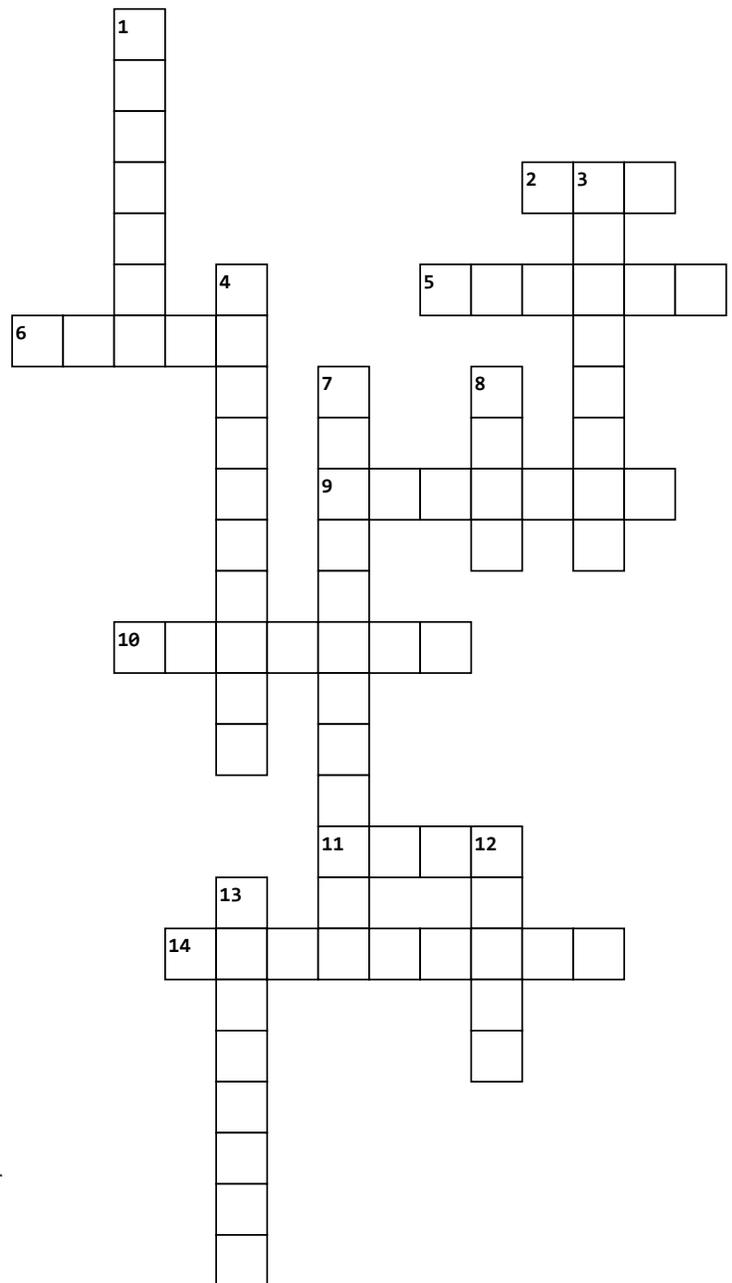
## (WOMEN IN POLITICS)

### ACROSS:

- 2. Out of 115 US Supreme Court Justices in history, only \_\_\_\_\_ have been women.
- 5. Nancy \_\_\_\_\_ was the first woman to be elected Speaker of the House.
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_ Haley was the first woman to win a republican presidential primary
- 9. Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ is the first out transgender person elected to Congress, serving since 2025.
- 10. Jeannette Rankin, the first woman elected to Congress, represented this state.
- 11. Nellie Tayloe \_\_\_\_\_ was the first woman to serve as Governor of a state (Wyoming).
- 14. Hillary Clinton is the only \_\_\_\_\_ to run for President in her own right. (one word)

### DOWN:

- 1. The first black woman to run for President, Shirley Chisolm, was a Congresswoman from \_\_\_\_\_. (one word)
- 3. Margaret Thatcher, the first woman to serve as British Prime Minister, was dubbed the \_\_\_\_\_. (one word)
- 4. This amendment, ratified in 1920, gave women the right to vote.
- 7. The first woman to serve as Vice President. (one word)
- 8. As of March 2025, this many women have served as governor of Virginia.
- 12. Madeline Albright, Condi Rice, and Hillary Clinton are the only three women to have served as Secretary of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 13. The first woman to run for President was \_\_\_\_\_ Woodhull in 1872.



### KEY:

- 1. New York
- 2. Six
- 3. IronLady
- 4. Nineteenth
- 5. Pelosi
- 6. Nikki
- 7. KamalaHarris
- 8. Zero
- 9. McBride
- 10. Montana
- 11. Ross
- 12. State
- 13. Victoria
- 14. FirstLady

CARD CLUB PRESENTS...

# PROFESSORMON

AT SPRING WEEKEND 2025

**NEW**  
**CARDS**  
**NEW**  
**PROFESSORS**  
**FEATURING:**  
**SECRET SOCIETY**  
**ENERGY CARDS**

