

# THE HIGHLAND CAVALIER

THURSDAY  
FEBRUARY 7  
2002  
VOLUME 58  
NUMBER 6

## One world united



A member of the Vienna Choir Boys dons an FDNY cap during a concert in New York City. The group recently performed in Pound, Va.

# Coach Ramseyer retires after 11 years with Cavs

by Amanda Hegerman  
Highland Cavalier Staff Writer

The Highland Cavaliers are saying goodbye to their head football coach. Bill Ramseyer announced his retirement on Wednesday, Jan. 23. In his 11 years at UVA-Wise he led his team to two national playoff appearances and a top-20 ranking. Ramseyer leaves the Cavaliers football team with a 62-45 record.

During interviews, both Ramseyer and his wife Mary expressed their feelings for all they will be leaving behind.

"Most of all I think I will miss the people and their hospitality," Ramseyer said. "We made a ton of friends when we first came here."

When asked about his favorite football memories, Ramseyer did not have any trouble recalling the past 11 years.

"There have been so many from the first game in '91 to the national playoffs. I have had the privilege to work with such talented student athletes with high goals,"

he said.

Along with the players, he also said he will miss the fans and the coaching. In recalling the time he spent with the players, he did not forget to comment on the game. "Of course I will miss the challenge that a Saturday afternoon brings," he said.

Ramseyer's wife, Mary, commented on the experiences she has had while teaching at UVA-Wise.

"I really miss my close association with the students and the faculty and just being a part of the students' lives," she said. "I have sincerely enjoyed the many different facets of my job."

At the end of the spring semester the couple will begin their retirement by building a house on the beach at Beaufort, S.C. But this will just be a new beginning for the Ramseyers, who both expect to keep busy.

"We want an active retirement," Bill Ramseyer said.

Retirement brings about a welcomed break for the Ramseyers. "I'm looking forward to having more freedom with time



Coach Bill Ramseyer.

and not being so constrained," Mary Ramseyer said. She is also looking forward to spending time with her family. "If we want to just pick up and go, we can. We are looking forward to taking part in our grandchildren's functions."

Mrs. Ramseyer summed up her and her husband's feelings when she said, "In our hearts we will never leave UVA-Wise."

# Students can get medieval with the newly-formed SCA

by Angela Markham  
Highland Cavalier Editor-in-Chief

A new student organization is coming to UVA-Wise that is literally from another time. The Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) held its first meeting on Wednesday, January 23. The purpose of the club is to show students that the Renaissance is about more than books on required reading lists.

"The SCA is an international organization that celebrates and recreates the culture of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance," said Stephanie Tolliver, who helped organize the meeting.

Though the national SCA may be best known for its members who attend Renaissance Fairs in gown and peasant costumes, Tolliver notes that the organization covers dates that are as early as 400 A.D. You also do not have to have a costume to become a member, though if you wish to make one there are people in the organization who can help with patterns and sewing.

The campus branch of the SCA will act as an affiliate of the local community's organization, which includes seven counties. The community branch participates in a variety of events around the area, including the annual Fall Fling and other craft shows.

"We also do presentations for schools where we go in dressed in our costumes," said Rhonda Dooley, a member of the community group. "We are a non-profit education group, and we educate both ourselves and the public about the Middle Ages."

"I've learned more in the years I've been in the SCA than I ever learned in any class," Tolliver said. One of the things that many members of the College's SCA hope to learn is armored combat.

"Both men and women are welcome to participate in the combat," Dooley said.

Those who find the thought of swordplay unappealing can participate in a variety of other activities. Members of the SCA can also travel to various Renaissance festivals. According to Tolliver, one is held somewhere around the country every weekend.

The local chapter has seen its share of battles both

on and off the combat field. In order to be able to compete locally, the organization had to secede from its kingdom of Atlanta to join rival kingdom Meridies.

"We took Southwest Virginia and ran," Dooley said.

The United States is divided into several kingdoms, and each local chapter has its own unique name. This area's chapter is named "Burning Stone", partially in honor of Big Stone Gap.

This is actually the second time that the SCA has been active on the UVA-Wise Campus. The club was initially formed in 1991, but was dissolved five years later as student interest waned.

Tolliver hopes to make the organization a permanent fixture on the campus, and is already planning several events to raise awareness of the club. These events include plans to sponsor a movie night sometime in the near future. Other plans include an on-campus demonstration of armored combat, community service and arts and crafts workshops. They also plan to have a table at the Winter Open House on Saturday, February 9.



Peasants stand over a combatant slain in battle.

# Cultural Awareness Day highlights countries of Haiti, Turkey; Islamic religion

by Angela Markham  
Highland Cavalier Editor-in-Chief

On Wednesday, Jan. 30, members of UVA-Wise were given a unique opportunity to learn about the cultural diversity that makes up the campus. Cultural Awareness Day was held in the Chapel, and students were treated to presentations about the countries of Haiti and Turkey, as well as the rights of women of Islamic faith.

The speakers were introduced by Toy Thomas, who gave a brief introduction into the purpose of the event.

"They speakers are here today to give you an idea of what you may already know about, and a better understanding of what you may not know about," Thomas said.

The first presentation was given by student Salma Montes, who spoke about her home country of Haiti.

"I'm doing this because there are a lot of stereotypes about my country that are not very positive," Montes said. "And no, I don't know any voodoo."

During her discussion, Montes touched on a variety of subjects, including the history of her country. She discussed the genocide that occurred in Haiti as a result of slavery that wiped out the country's entire native population. Montes also discussed the history of voodoo.

"If I can say one thing about voodoo, it's don't mess with it," Montes said. "Whatever you do, it comes back two times worse on you."

Montes also discussed topics such as Haiti's annual Carnival celebration, which is similar to Mardi Gras. However, Montes was quick to point out the differences.

"Unlike Louisiana, we do not lift up our shirts," she said.

Montes also highlighted her country's rich geography. "We have beaches as beautiful as Jamaica," she said. "The only difference is that we don't have all the people investing in our country."

In addition to her insightful and entertaining talk, Montes also presented a slide show that highlighted Haiti's beautiful geography and cultural diversity.

Following Montes, Turkish exchange student Zeynep Kara gave a presentation which focused largely on the daily life of a student at Istanbul University. Almost immediately, the differences between the two universities became apparent.

"The largest classroom can hold 2,000 people," she said. The statement drew comments of awe from students used to a much smaller learning environment. Kara went on to explain that the two universities share many of the same student organizations, including clubs for business, dance and sports.

Throughout her presentation, Kara combined the daily routine of studying and relaxing with the country's rich history and geography.

Kara also discussed the history and geography of Istanbul, and distributed handouts detailing the city. Istanbul, she said, is the only city in the world located on two different continents. The city has also served as the capital of three empires.

The final speaker was Hana Zibdeh, an Islamic student who was raised in Wise County. Zibdeh spoke about women of Islamic faith, and how the rights they are sometimes given differ greatly from those outlined in the Quran.

"Islam plays a predominant role in the lives of Arabs," Zibdeh said. "It is difficult to separate the religion from the culture."

Zibdeh quoted several passages from the Quran, which placed equality on both genders. "There is a repetition of 'men and woman, men and women,'" Zibdeh said. "It does not exclude women or say only man."

She continued by stating that when it comes to matters of inheritance, women actually have more freedom than men.

"When men inherit money, it must be

divided equally among his wife and children. If the woman inherits the money, she has complete control over where that money goes," Zibdeh said.

She also noted that Islam was the first religion to mandate that fathers pay child support.

Perhaps the most enlightening part of Zibdeh's discussion came when she explained why so many Muslim women choose to keep their faces concealed beneath a veil. While Western audiences have come to view these women as oppressed, Zibdeh explained that the garments are actually quite liberating.

"People say that these women who cover their ankles, wrists, face and hair are so oppressed," Zibdeh said. "This is not true. A woman is no longer legs and breasts. She is a brain, she is a person, and she is an equal."

She also explained that the garment makes prayer easier. People of Muslim faith pray five times a day, and cover their hair to show respect to God.

Zibdeh went on to outline several facts about Islamic women's rights that most people do not realize. She explained that the rights to vote, own property and serve in the military have only been given to American women only during the past 100



Hana Zibdeh discussed Islamic women.

years. Islamic women have had these same rights for more than 1,400 years.

When asked to name a country she felt truly represented Islam, Zibdeh's response was surprising.

"I can't find one that is truly following Islamic rules and guidelines," she said.

# Alumni phonathon hopes for new record

by Angela Markham  
Highland Cavalier Editor-in-Chief

The annual Alumni Phonathon will take place from February 17-21 in the Chapel. Students will be calling graduates of the University of Virginia's College at Wise, or Clinch Valley College, as it was known during the days of most alumni, in hopes of persuading them to donate money to various causes, such as scholarships and building funds. Calls will take place nightly from 6-9 p.m.

According to Director of Alumni relations Valerie Lawson, the dollar amount raised is not the most important goal of the phonathon.

"The percentage of alumni who donate is far more important to us than the amount of money we take in. We don't have a dollar goal."

Because the number of different contributions is more important than the money raised, alumni are encouraged to donate as little as five dollars to help the College.

Lawson hopes to make this year's phonathon more successful than last year's. "We were able to contact about 1,700 alumni," she said. "We received about \$14,000 of the pledges. We had about 529 specific pledges last year, and our goal is to beat that number, somewhere around the 550 range."

There are incentives for the students who raise the most money during the week-long event. Fraternities and sororities only are allowed to man the phones on Monday night, and the Greek organization which raises the most money will receive a free pizza party.

In addition, the student with the highest amount of contributions will receive a \$125 prize. To increase chances of winning, students are allowed to come back to participate as many nights as they wish.

"Last year, we had a boyfriend and girlfriend competing to see who would raise the most money," Lawson said. "They kept coming back every night because each wanted to beat the other one." Awards of \$100 and \$75 will also be

given out to the students who place second that third in the amount of money raised.

Students who wish to participate in the phonathon but do not feel they have the necessary skills need not worry. Half-hour training sessions will be offered prior to the start of the actual calls. In addition, a "cheat sheet" will be by every phone in case a volunteer needs a little help remembering what to say.

Lawson also stresses that there is no reason for students to feel shy or nervous about participating.

"The alumni you're calling don't know who you are," she said. "It's a good opportunity for students to come out of their shells. You can be whatever you want to be during the phonathon, not what someone thinks you are."

Money raised this year will go to benefit several areas of the College. Alumni may designate their money be used for scholarships, or donate to a general fund which is used for items such as new lab equipment and campus beautification.

# New program begins to help students learn business skills

by Roger Hegg, Jr.  
Highland Cavalier Staff Writer

The Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership and Service (CELS) is a unique new program for students to help them develop and enhance skills in business, leadership and service, but not just anyone can join.

Students are nominated according to talent and merit by professors in various departments: Business and Economics, Visual and Performing Arts, Language and Literature, and History and Computer Science. Additionally, the members are preferably freshmen or sophomores so that they can reap the long-term benefits the program has to offer.

"This is the first time that students from so many different departments have come together within one club," said director Chris Achua. He added that such a diversity is what students can expect to encounter in the professional workplace.

Wednesday night's meeting served as an orientation for both the student members and the directors to get acquainted with one another. For two hours, the new members participated in various activities that served to get a feel for how the organization's meetings will function.

One of the most challenging activities involved the students dividing into small groups and quickly devising a business venture or new product within a few minutes. The results were varied and included a campus television channel funded by MTV, a local ski resort called "Dream Mountain" and the "Un-Lay-Z Boy," a chair that gives users a complete workout with little to no effort. Although the projects were purely fantasy, the students enjoyed being creative and working together.

The Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership and Service established with the help of the Virginia state government, which awarded a grant of \$40,000 toward the implementation of the center.

