



# C THE HIGHLAND CAVALIER

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**This Week**  
Yuna's *Final Fantasy* continues, and Sonic teams up with some *Heroes* in Press Play.  
PAGE 2



PHOTO BY COLLEGE RELATIONS

The most recent change to the 50-year-old UVA-Wise campus is the five-story C. Bascom Slemple Student Center, which cost over 10 million dollars.

## College to celebrate 50th anniversary

By Daniel Leehy  
Staff Writer

Fifty years ago, a group of men had a vision of building a college. A committee composed of William Thompson, Fred Grear, Kenneth Asbury and Senator M. Melville Long discussed the idea of creating a school in Wise, Va., and through these discussions and the University of Virginia's approval, Clinch Valley College of the University of Virginia was created. It is

now 2004, and the University of Virginia's College at Wise is 50 years old and recognized as one of the most respected liberal arts colleges in the nation.

UVA-Wise will present a number of events during 2004 to celebrate the College's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, beginning with an official anniversary celebration during Fall Convocation on Aug. 24. On Oct. 23, the UVA-Wise Alumni Association will host Clinch Valley College Day, and on

Nov. 6, the Alumni Association and the Highland Cavalier Club will honor all former athletes.

The College has grown dramatically over the past 50 years. A donation of 5,000 dollars funded the College's opening, and the first class was 109 full-time students and 116 part-time students, compared to today's total of 1,700 students attending UVA-Wise. Within the past year alone, the College has seen

COLLEGE, page 4

## Acclaimed playwright Lavonne Mueller to visit campus, host workshop

By Roger Hagy, Jr.  
Editor-in-Chief

Nationally acclaimed playwright Lavonne Mueller will visit UVA-Wise during the week of Feb. 16-20 to host a series of special writing presentations, including lectures, class visits, and a workshop open to all students, teachers and community writers.

A Woodrow Wilson



Fellow, Mueller's week will begin with a lecture called "Looking to French Culture: Writing About Joan of Arc." Sponsored by Phi Alpha Theta, the lecture will be presented at 1 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 16. The location has yet to be announced.

Also on Monday, Mueller will

present a free workshop on creative writing for all interested students, teachers

PLAYWRIGHT, page 4

## Fitness center, game room invite students to be active while having fun

Students can now get fit, play racquetball and compete in tournaments

By Heather Gentry & Courtney Conner  
Staff Writers

The new C. Bascom Slemple Student Center brings more character and activities to the UVA-Wise campus. From racquetball courts to a fully furnished fitness center, students and faculty have a variety of activities to satisfy their "get fit" resolution for the New Year. These facilities are free to all students and faculty.

The fitness center offers workout equipment ranging from cardio machines and weights to upper-body and lower-body machines. The fitness center is also equipped with televisions, and headphones are available at the check-in desk.

In addition to the third floor's fitness area, the student center offers a

game room on the second floor with two pool tables, a foosball table and an air hockey table. Different activities are held in the game room each month, ranging from card games to pool tournaments.

The game room and the three racquetball courts on the first floor are open to students and faculty from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday; 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturdays; and 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Sundays. Also, the fitness center will close thirty minutes prior to the game room and racquetball courts each night. Students are reminded that when the College is closed for inclement weather, the Student Center will operate from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Those interested in using the facilities must check in at the desk on the third floor by leaving a valid college identification card to attain any equipment.

PRESS PLAY

Hit sequels Final Fantasy X-2, Sonic Heroes invite fans to return to series

By Bree Bowling & Audra Bowling Staff Writers

Final Fantasy X-2 Platform(s): Playstation 2 Developer: Square-Enix Genre: RPG

Being the first true sequel to an FF game, Final Fantasy X-2 continues the story told in FFX. Two years after the events of the first game, Yuna sets out on a new journey as a Sphere Hunter in the hopes that she'll be able to find her lost guardian Tidus, the main character of FFX. She joins up with her cousin Rikku and newcomer Paine, and they form a Sphere Hunting group called the Gullwings (think Charlie's Angels in a video game and you'll get the idea).

The game itself is mission-based, with the missions spread across five chapters. One can choose to simply play through only the assigned missions, or they can branch out and take different routes, which is where FFX-2 truly shines. The game is immense and several hours can be spent traveling all over the locales of Spira, not only to play mini-games and complete optional missions, but also to see familiar faces and discover what has changed in the past two years. It's important to note that this game has a percentage completion system. Participating only in assigned missions or rushing through the story segments will award a very small percentage of

completion and will keep the player from obtaining the game's perfect ending, as well as from gaining all of the numerous items and extras that the game holds.

The battle system is different from some FF games in that it is an "active battle" system instead of the usual turn-based system, with everything happening all at once and forcing players to think fast as they figure out a strategy. The summons from previous games are gone, but the use of dress spheres make up for this by allowing characters to change costumes and abilities.

While the game is immensely in-depth with its side games, some of them can prove to be more than just a challenge. The best example of this is "Sphere Break," a game that seems to have been designed strictly for people with a graduate's degree in math. One of the more enjoyable side games, however, is the breeding of chocobos, the giant bird mascots of the FF series.

All in all, Final Fantasy X-2 is not for everyone. Some fans might be a little put off by the drastic changes from the first game and newcomers might find it a little hard to get into a continuing story. A player must have plenty of patience in order to get through every single thing that this game has to offer, but those who can might find a nice little surprise in Final Fantasy X-2.



Rikku, Yuna and Paine (top) team up for Final Fantasy X-2, an RPG in which Yuna and company can fight using pistols (left) or other weaponry. Sega's speedy blue mascot, Sonic the Hedgehog, (above), returns in Sonic Heroes, a game that focuses on teamwork among such friends as Tails, Sonic and Knuckles (below).



FINAL FANTASY X-2 PHOTOS BY SQUARE-ENIX; SONIC HEROES PHOTOS BY SEGA

Sonic Heroes Platform(s): Gamecube, Xbox, Playstation 2 Developer: SEGA Genre: Racing/Platform

Sonic the Hedgehog has been around for a while now, ever since his first adventures on the Sega Genesis in the early 90's. Since SEGA has decided to develop games instead of platforms, their mascot hedgehog has had many games released on multiple platforms. Sonic Heroes, however, is the closest thing to old-school Sonic to be released in quite a while. A hybrid racing and platform game, players can chose between four teams consisting of three members each: Team Sonic, Team Dark, Team Rose and Team Chaotix. Each team has its own strengths and weaknesses, which are used in the racing and regular battle modes.

Overall, Sonic Heroes is one of those games that is fun to play while in a group. The multiplayer modes are extremely fun while the single player mode can get monotonous. It's also a short game, so don't expect to feel fulfilled after it's finished. While it seems geared toward little kids who watch the Saturday morning Sonic X cartoon on Fox, older gamers will also find some enjoyment in Sonic Heroes - especially those who fondly remember playing Sonic games "back in the day."

Return of the King, Lost in Translation win Golden Globes

By Christina Hicks-Goldston Advisor

The magic was in the air on Sunday, Jan. 25, at the 61st Annual Golden Globe Awards. Film and television's biggest stars were on display on the "red carpet," and the nominees represented what the Hollywood Foreign Press Association considered to be the best of 2003. Many consider the Golden Globes to be a precursor to the American Academy Awards - in other words, a kind of preview of who will be nominated and who will win each award.

The Best Picture in the drama category was The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King, and the Best Picture in the musical or comedy category was Lost in Translation. The Best Actor in a Leading Role in a drama was Sean Penn in Mystic River, and the Best Actor in a Leading

Role in a musical or comedy was Bill Murray in Lost in Translation. Interestingly, both Penn and Murray are nominated for Oscars, and while both are strong contenders, many Hollywood insiders consider Penn's notorious failure to show up at awards shows to be a problem, while Murray's semi-comedic approach to his material could be a liability, as well.

The Best Actress in a Leading Role in a drama went to Charlize Theron for Monster, while the Best Actress in a Musical or Comedy went to Diane Keaton for Something's Got to Give. Again, both women are nominated for Oscars, but Theron has the edge - she's in a serious drama about a serial killer, and the dramatic roles generally bring in Oscar votes.

The Best Actor in a

Supporting Role went to Tim Robbins in Mystic River, while the Best Actress in a Supporting Role went to Renee Zellweger in Cold Mountain. Both were nominated for Oscars as well.

In the Best Director category, Peter Jackson won for The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King, and Sophia Coppola (daughter of acclaimed filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola) won Best Screenplay for Lost in Translation. Both are

nominated in the same categories for Oscars.

Finally, the Best Score award went to Howard Shore for The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King, while the Best Song award went to Annie Lennox, Howard Shore and Frances Walsh for "Into the West" from The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King. The Oscars reflect these winners as nominees.

The most interesting thing about the Globes is that they sometimes in no way reflect the eventual

outcome of the Academy Awards. Academy members sometimes choose very "offbeat" winners or choose to deny a multi-nominated picture any awards at all. That was the fate of Cold Mountain, a picture with eight Golden Globe nominations and only two winners.

The Academy Awards will be presented Feb. 29 on ABC, live from the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood.

Pizza King advertisement with menu items: Campus Special (Large one topping pizza \$6.99), Lunch & Late Nite Special (Medium one topping pizza & 2 20-oz. drinks \$6.29, Large one topping pizza & 4 20-oz. drinks \$8.39).

SPORTS

Men's hoops live up to last year's hype

Cavs basketball team hopes to win AAC tournament for second consecutive year

By Josh Hurst Staff Writer

The UVa-Wise basketball season is well underway. After passing last year's expectations, the men's team has high hopes for the 2003-2004 season, despite a rough start early in the season.

The early part of the schedule included losses to Tusculum, Tennessee Tech, Pikeville and ETSU. After that, however, the Cavs have greatly improved. The Cavs are currently ranked fourth in the conference, with an overall record of ten

wins and just five losses. In addition, senior Brandon Green achieved a milestone in his collegiate career when he scored his 1,000th point at home against rival Virginia Intermont.

As the Cavs strive to win the AAC tournament

for the second year in a row, the players acknowledge that the fans' support helps.

"The crowd gets us hyped," player Mac Jankov said. "The louder the crowd, the better we play."

Jankov encourages fans to especially attend the last two home games of the

regular season and show their school spirit. The last home games are scheduled for Feb. 14 and 19 in Greer Gymnasium against AAC members Tennessee Wesleyan College and King College. Each game will begin at 7:30 p.m.

## Playwright to present lectures, writing workshops for students, faculty and community writers

(continued from page 1) and community writers at 4 p.m. in the Chapel. Writers of all ages and levels of experience are invited to attend the workshop, which is sponsored by the College's Department of Language and Literature and the *Jimson Weed*, the College's official literary magazine.

Mueller will give presentations on Tuesday regarding Theater Design at 12:30 p.m. and Contemporary Performance: Rehearsal and Text Development at 2 p.m.

The Science Club will sponsor a Wednesday presentation by Mueller entitled "Science and the Playwright" at 12 p.m. The presentation will be

accompanied by a luncheon.

On Friday, Feb. 20, Mueller will end her week-long visit to the campus with a visit to an introductory Visual-Performing Arts class to give a special presentation. In addition to this class visit, Mueller will also visit advanced English courses during the week to discuss converting poetic texts to drama and composing dramatic monologues.

Mueller, whose plays and textbook on creative writing are available at the College bookstore and Wyllie Library, has won numerous awards for her works. Mueller's career

accomplishments include the Roger Stevens Playwriting Award, a Guggenheim Grant, a Rockefeller Grant, three National Endowment for the Arts Grants, a Fulbright to Argentina, an Asian Culture Council Grant to Calcutta and a U.S. Friendship Commission Grant to Japan. In addition to being a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, Mueller is also a Lila Wallace Reader's Digest Writing Fellow and has been a professor at Columbia University for five years. Mueller's play *Violent Peace* received the honor of being the "Critic's Choice" in *Time Out Magazine*, and her textbook, *Creative Writing*,

is used by students around the world.

In addition to the scheduled activities during her visit to the College, Mueller said that she would be happy to conduct extra workshops regarding "mini-plays" or monologues for students, teachers and aspiring writers from the College and the surrounding community.

All events hosted by Mueller are free and open to the public. Times and places are subject to change. For more information, contact Jane Meade-Dean of College Relations at 328-0130 or Coordinator for Academic Events Diane Cornett at 328-0285.

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One of the most dramatic changes to the College landscape is the centralized Student Center, located at the heart of the campus.

### College prepares for anniversary celebration of 50-year history

(continued from page 1) significant changes throughout the campus, including the addition of a campus lake, the Slemple Student Center (at a cost of over 10 million dollars) and

the new Science Center (which cost 9 million dollars).

In addition, UVa-Wise has nearly 7,200 alumni from its 50 years in operation.

## Students reminded to submit general scholarship, FAFSA applications by Apr. 1

By Roger Hagg, Jr.  
Editor-in-Chief

Bill Wendle and the Office of Financial Aid would like to remind all students that first-time and renewal General Scholarship Applications for the 2004-2005 academic year are due in the Office of

Financial Aid (located in Bowers-Sturgill Hall) no later than Apr. 1. Applications can be picked up at the Office of Financial Aid or on their website, which can be found from the College's homepage at [www.uvawise.edu](http://www.uvawise.edu).

The Office of

Financial Aid would also like to remind students the College's priority date for submitting new or renewal FAFSA applications for need-based aid is also Apr. 1. However, the Office recommends that students submit these applications by the middle of February.

## BULLETIN BOARD

Student center reservations available for group meetings

Reservations for lounges, conference rooms and the aerobics rooms in the Student Center are available to students and faculty for activities and meetings. If interested, contact Sonia Baden at 376-4513.

'Beat the Boss'

On Tuesday, Feb. 17, Chris Davis will host a "Beat the Boss" racquetball tournament from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Participants who win a match against Davis ("the boss") will receive a free t-shirt. All students are encouraged to participate.

-- Courtney Conner and Heather Gentry