Kaplan steps down as chancellor, accepts position at University of New Haven

By Samuel Lester and Roger Mag, Jr.

So the search for a new chancellor begins.

Steven H. Kaplan stepped down from his position as Uva-Wise chancellor on Wednesday, March 10, resigning after three years in the position. Kaplan is leaving the College to become the chancellor at the University of New Haven (UNH) in West Haven, Conn., effective July 1.

Meeting with the UNH Board of Governors on March 10, Kaplan was not present when word of his resignation reached the Wise campus through a letter written by University of Virginia President John Casteen III, addressed to faculty, staff and students. In Casteen’s letter, Kaplan sent a message to the College community, announcing his departure “with pride in all we have accomplished over the past three years.”

On March 12, at a meeting in the chapel open to students, faculty and staff, Kaplan said that UNH had been interested in hiring him for several years and that he had only applied to UNH and no other institution.

Kaplan’s resignation comes at an awkward time for Uva-Wise, as the College has begun the year-long celebration of its 50th anniversary, including last month’s “kick-off” ceremony co-hosted by Kaplan. In his letter, Casteen credits the chancellor for launching the 2004 anniversary celebration.

Regardless, Kaplan said in the letter that he and his wife Anemone “will both look back on our time in Wise with fondness and appreciation.”

“I am very grateful to our faculty, staff and many constituents for their hard work, resourcefulness and support,” Kaplan wrote.

Steve Kaplan resigned as chancellor on March 10 and will become the president of the University of New Haven on July 1.
Lady Cavaliers' softball off to fast start

As the Lady Cavs swept Emory and Henry College, the team's momentum has carried over to its softball game. The Lady Cavaliers' softball team is off to a fast start, with a 6-0 victory against the Wasps, and an 8-2 win, completing the weekend sweep over Men's and women's tennis teams welcome 8 freshmen.

Brian Johnson
Sports Editor

Despite two early season losses, the UVa-Wise tennis teams have high hopes for the future with eight talented freshmen. Amanda Terry, a freshman walk-on, won both of her matches during the last weekend in February and is the only undefeated player on either the men's or women's teams. David Walls and Davina Dishner, both freshmen, are number-one singles and doubles stars for the men's and women's teams.

The men's tennis team, led by senior captain Steve McCoy, suffered two 9-0 losses to Mars Hill College in February. The team was also upset by Tennessee Wesleyan University in March. The women's team, led by senior captain Jessica Bruce, lost to Mars Hill, 8-1. The team was also upset by Tennessee Wesleyan, 6-3, despite ending in a three-set match won by Bruce. The women's team has two matches coming up against Lincoln Memorial University and Virginia Intermont College.

Lady Cavaliers' softball off to fast start

Ceremony honors graduating basketball players, cheerleaders, Cavaleettes

Chancellor Kaplan resigns position, effective July 1

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EveryStudent.com

Paid for by Brian Ward of Wise, Va.
Barter Theatre offers musicals, comedies and other live stage performances for 2004 season

By Lindsay McNaught
Staff Writer

The 2004 season presented at Barter Theatre appears to a very interesting year for those who enjoy theatrical productions, offering a variety of stage performances. This season, the Barter is presenting four very different musicals for anyone to enjoy. One musical production entitled “Girl of My Dreams” tells the story of a grandfather as he unveils the story about meeting his wife during World War II. Another musical is “Fire on the Mountain,” a song-filled tribute to Appalachian coal miners.

Barter Theatre is also offering several different comedies that will appeal to those with a soft spot for light-hearted antics. “Fully Committed” is a comedy now showing until April 17, and stars Mike Ostroski portraying 40 different characters. Other comedies scheduled include “Arsenic And Old Lace,” which tells the story of two old ladies that “populate their cellar with the remains of socially and religiously acceptable roomers,” and “The Odd Couple,” which tells the story of two friends that are complete opposites trying to co-exist in the same apartment without losing their friendship or sanity.

Other plays include the “Sleuth,” a comedy-thriller that is “an intriguing study of human conflict, jealousy and manipulation,” as well as the presentation of “A Modern Christmas Carol,” an updated version of Charles Dickens’ classic Christmas story. The presentation of Victor Hugo’s classic novel “The Hunchback of Notre Dame” is a production that should please those who enjoy powerful stories of romance and drama. There is also a hint of mystery, betrayal, manipulation and action to keep everyone entertained.

For more information concerning scheduled show times and ticket prices, contact Barter Theatre at (276) 628-3991, or visit their website at www.bartertheatre.com.

PRESS PLAY

Audra Bowling and Bree Bowling
Staff Writers

Drakengard
Platform: PlayStation 2
Publisher: Square-Enix
Genre: Action-RPG
ESRB Rating: Mature

More or less an action-RPG, Square-Enix’s Drakengard proves to be quite a fascinating and breathtaking tale. Two kingdoms, the Union and the Empire, are locked in a bitter war, the result of which could mean the annihilation of everything in the entire world. The player takes the role of Caim, a warrior on the side of the Union protecting his sister Furiae, who is wanted by the Empire. He makes a pact with a dragon for power, despite their hatred for each other, and reunites with his sister and her fiancé Inuart. Now mute because of the pact’s seal on his tongue, Caim travels with the other two characters in search of answers and meets more characters struggling in Drakengard’s war-torn world. He and the dragon must also come to an understanding as they journey onward together.

Though the story can get lost at times, Drakengard still has a great plot and, with a total of five endings, enough to keep gamers coming back for more. Players must be abreast of their storyline percentage during all of the eight chapters in order to be aware of which ending they will receive. Graphically, the in-game visuals are pretty, but nothing Square-Enix has not done before. The CG cutscenes, however, are simply beautiful to watch and include some decent voice acting.

Be prepared to fight the camera though, because it will be quite annoying at times. The dungeon-type playing areas are huge, but can become repetitive and boring. In battles the player can chose to fight on foot or to ride on the dragon, and Caim has access to a variety of weapons using the nifty “Weapon Wheel.” Every enemy that is defeated adds to Caim’s and the dragon’s experience so that the team gets stronger with each fight.

Drakengard is a nice little addition to the small genre of action-RPGs, and while it is shorter than a lot of games out there (about 20 hours is necessary to complete one game), the multiple outcomes give the title some nice replay value.

That isn’t to say that Drakengard does not have any faults. The repetitive nature of the game’s battles and fields will grate on even the most patient of gamers’ nerves. However, with beautiful cinematic scenes, an interesting plot and an array of weapons in Caim’s arsenal, Drakengard more than makes up for its shortcomings.