

C THE HIGHLAND CAVALIER

Celebrating more than 50 years of student news at UVA-Wise

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THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA'S COLLEGE AT WISE

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IT director search stalled

By Kate Baldwin
Opinion Editor

The search for a new director of Information Technology continues.

Beginning in February, a third round of recruiting will attempt to find the perfect candidate to fill the position that has been vacant since May 2006.

Why has it taken so long to find someone to do this job?

According to Shelia Combs, interim director of Technology, registrar and assistant dean for ESS, the job requires a special blend of skills and abilities.

"The job needs to be filled by someone who has the technical knowledge of an IT professional, administrative skill and has the people skills necessary to work at the highest professional levels where policy and financial decisions are made," she said.

That is why the position has been changed from a director's-level position to a vice chancellor's-level position.

"One of the candidates from the second round of recruiting agreed to take the position, but only if it was changed to a vice chancellor position," Combs said. "It was a matter of level of authority and scope of responsibility."

Since the position was not advertised at that level, and since it would have been unethical to make a position description change mid-way through the process, it necessitated an additional search.

Combs originally agreed to fill the job as an interim director last year because it was hoped that the position would be filled quickly.

"I agreed to help out in this job because the Registrar's

Office is one of the heaviest users of IT on campus, and I had filled-in, on occasion, before," Combs said. "I had no idea I'd still be doing it now; [finding a new vice chancellor] has got to be done by the end of the semester."

Why is it essential that the campus have a new vice chancellor of IT?

Most students don't have a clue.

"I didn't even know that they were looking for one," said Leighanne Crossen, an undeclared freshman. "What does he do?"

The IT department touches every aspect of student and faculty life here on campus. E-mail, registration, Blackboard, classroom resources, student and faculty technical support, library resources, research, and math and computer science departments are all highly dependent on the services provided by the campus IT department.

"I don't know what I'd do if I couldn't access Blackboard," said Virgil Younce, a junior Spanish major. "One of my classes this semester has all of our stuff on it."

"I have to do a lot of research in the library and most of the information I need is online," said Stephanie Jesse, a junior administration of justice major.

It's not just the day-to-day campus services that require a knowledgeable leader at the helm. The college has the opportunity to become a major player when it comes to providing a qualified employee base for the new Grumman and CGI facilities.

"The campus CIO [Chief Information Officer] position is a key position, especially if the college is going to be a technological leader in the region," said Alex Edwards, chair

See SEARCH, page 3

Pro-Art cancels spring performances

From Staff Reports

Pro-Art, the local non-profit arts group, announced late last week that it would cancel all of the remaining programs for the current season—with the exception of several smaller college programs—due to financial reasons.

"For the last three years, there has been a growing gap between our expenses and our income, and it has become apparent that we must cancel most of this spring's schedule so that we can re-stabilize Pro-Art and prepare for the 2007-2008 season," the organization said in a statement to the campus community.

"The underlying reason for our financial problems is that Pro-Art has been too ambitious," the message said. "We have scheduled too many expensive programs, and our income has not kept up with our expenses."

"We wish to emphasize that the Pro-Art Board of Trustees has already taken steps to re-stabilize Pro-Art and procure funds, both to pay off our debts and finance arts programs for next year. We also wish to emphasize that both the University of Virginia's College at Wise and Mountain Empire Community College are being very supportive to our efforts to deal with our financial problems."

Canceled shows:	
Feb. 7	Torne/Sings Torne
Feb. 12	Ragamala Music and Dance/Theater
March 6	The Hungarian State Folk Ensemble
March 21	The Pirates of Penzance
March 28	Don Quixote
April 16, 17	Some Enchanted Evening
May 7	Urban Cowboy

Few complete course evals

By Aaron Collier
Staff Writer

Only half of the UVA-Wise student body completed the newly implemented online instructor evaluation for the fall semester, but the low percentages didn't come as a shock to Provost Gil Blackburn.

"It didn't alarm us," he said. "This is probably in the range we expected. It's maybe 15 percentage lower than what we need to get valid."

Blackburn said the new system has been in discussion for the last two years. He said the new method of evaluation was a natural progression—from the old pencil and paper system to the online system.

Scott Bevins, director of Institutional Research and External Programs, agreed that this method is the right direction when it comes to instructor evaluations.

"It's more and more that schools are starting to do them online," Bevins said. "We hoped that we gave students a little more time to think through, sit down at the computer and think about and really analyze the course and offer some suggestions about the course and so on."

Education department chair Jeff Cantrell agreed that the low numbers are nothing to be alarmed about. He said the low percentage is due to the new way of doing evaluations.

"I just think that we are changing from doing evaluations one way to conducting them in another way," Cantrell said. "I think it will just take some time for students and faculty to get used to that. I don't really see it as a concern."

Even though the low evaluation numbers were not a total shock, Blackburn did say that the numbers were "not satisfactory."

A common response among students who did not complete the evaluations was that they forgot due to the timing of the evaluation—which came during the last two weeks of the fall semester.

Instructors also raised concerns over the timing of the evaluations.

Jessica Williams, a teaching fellow in Spanish, said that the time of year led to low completion percentages and more time to complete evaluations could have helped.

"They [the students] all had to study and get their final projects in," Williams said. "Maybe if they gave them three weeks instead of two."

Rachel Tighe, department chair of communication studies, said the hectic exam schedule might have played a part in the low response.

"It is a really crunched time of the semester," Tighe said. "If we did it earlier at the end of the semester that would be more effective as far as response rate goes."

Administrators said they are looking to extend the amount of time allowed for students to complete the evaluations in

See EVALS, page 3

Music major debuts

By Brittany Padgett
Staff Writer

Beginning this fall, students attending UVA-Wise can add another possible major to the growing list of fields offered at the college—a major in music in the Department of Visual & Performing Arts.

"The music major should add to the already diverse offerings at UVA-Wise and make us an even more comprehensive college," said Richard Galyean, director of bands.

Music majors will be required to take courses in music history/literature, music theory, applied music, ensemble performance, orchestration, and conducting.

"Students will also be producing a thirty minute lecture recital as part of the major during their junior or senior year," said Michael Cox, instructor of vocal music.

David Volk, an assistant professor and academic coordinator for the division of music said, "We will also offer an optional PreK-12 Teacher's Endorsement Program in Choral or Instrumental music which we hope will have an increasing and lasting impact that enhances the quality of public school music teaching not only in Southwest Virginia, but across the state."

The new major will not only benefit the college community, but it should offer benefits to local schools by providing the schools with trained music teachers,

See NEW MAJOR, page 3



Photo by Allans Barrett

Cars in the Thompson-Hall parking lot were covered in snow after the January 25 snow storm. Although early morning classes were held, the college shutdown at 11 a.m.

College hosts celebration of Black History Month

By Jenna Johnson
Staff Writer

Every February Americans celebrate and honor the history and traditions of African-Americans with Black History Month.

UVA-Wise is no exception.

Originated in 1926 as Negro History Week by Carter G. Woodson, who founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life, Black History Month was created to celebrate and honor those African Americans who are our past, present, and future, and those who have done great things.

"For the most part, [Black History Month is] a celebration of all history, particularly of Black people all across that African

Diaspora," said senior Emahunn Campbell, president of the Black Student Union.

In history African Americans are left out of the conversation, Campbell said.

"We should continue to celebrate Black History throughout the entire year and incorporate it into the general idea of history."

In celebration of Black History Month, the college will host a series of events throughout February—including a soul food luncheon and a gospel music festival.

The highlight of the college's month-long celebration is a special lecture by James McBride, author of the New York Times bestseller, "The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother."

See MONTH, page 3

Black History Month Events

Feb. 7
Gospel Fest-1 p.m. in Student Center

Feb. 21
Soul Food Luncheon-11 a.m. in Cafeteria
Slave Trade presentation-1 p.m. in Student Center

Feb. 23
One-man drama-1 p.m. in Student Center
Student Variety Show-8 p.m. in Gym

Feb. 24
One-man drama-11 a.m. in Student Center

Feb. 28
Author James McBride speaks

From the Editor's Desk

An Unflattering Truth

The other night I attended a showing of "An Inconvenient Truth" which was held in the Science lecture hall. I was troubled by the small number of students in attendance. The issue of global warming is one that should be of great concern to everyone living today--so you would think that students would take the time to come out and watch a documentary about this issue.

Our generation is the one that needs to find a way to fix this problem. We are the ones that need to get up off of our asses and DO SOMETHING. It's not going to fix itself. However, it seems that our generation is plagued by a terrible disease that makes us unable to do anything--it's called APATHY. So many of us just don't seem to care about anything or we're too lazy to get up and do anything. This was made clear to me by the poor attendance that "An Inconvenient Truth" received.

-ALLANA BARRETT, Editor-In-Chief

Do you give a *&@#?

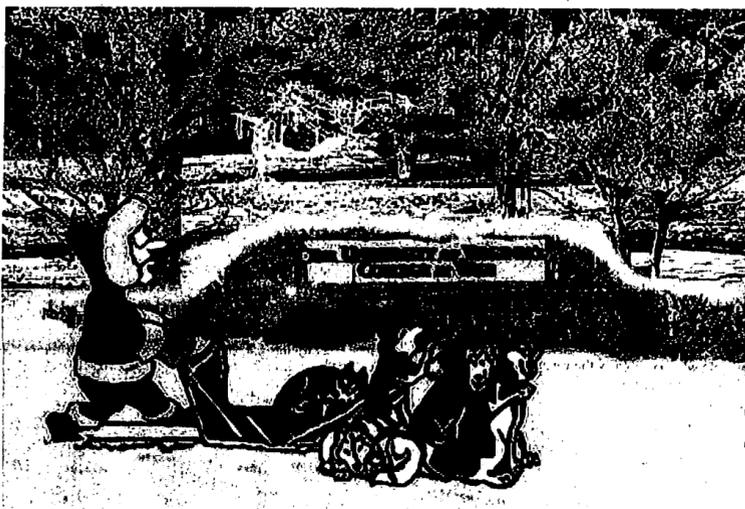
By Kate Baldwin Opinion Editor

It has come to the attention of The Highland Cavalier staff that there is no lack of opinions among the student body. The question is, however, why don't more students feel free to make their voices heard on campus? Granted, this isn't UC Berkeley in the 1960s, but what's up? We know you're out here, we can hear you breathing. Walking around campus we hear people complaining about one thing or another, yet so few, if any, use the best outlet for getting their voices heard: The Highland Cavalier newspaper.

We support freedom of speech and are not mouthpieces for the university administration! This opinion page often includes articles from a nationwide newswire service because no one will take the few minutes that are necessary to write an e-mail and let us know what is on your mind. If you think that some program on campus is great or terrible or needs improvement, we want to know. If you have a gripe about part of your curriculum's requirements, don't just put it on Facebook or MySpace, we want to know.

Correction: In our December 1, 2006 issue we inadvertently credited a front-page photograph to the wrong person. The photo of Chancellor David Prior was taken by a member of the College Relations staff.

You Know You're a Highland Cavalier if...



CARTOON BY KATE BALDWIN

...when it snows you have to commute by dog sled.



Why break up? Well, why not?

By Nancy Stickle Staff Writer

It is an inevitable tragedy that will eventually happen to everyone. I am not talking about death and taxes; I'm talking about experiencing a breakup. Breakups are not fun, although they can seem fun at first when going out to enjoy your new found freedom. However the music eventually stops, hopefully you eventually sober up, and after buying everything your little heart desires, retail therapy ends, and its time to come to terms with the situation.

Whether you are driving by yourself, or day dreaming in class, your mind tends to ponder the questions why? Why did this happen? Or why did he/she do that? However I would like to encourage students to take a new approach on the question why and that is: why not? That's right, why not break up? Or to rephrase the question more specifically: Why continue to be in a relationship that is going nowhere, or be with someone who is not right for you. There are 7 million, 642 thousand, 8 hundred and 88 people in the state of Virginia, and if you are really desperate, how about 299 million, 398 thousand, and 4 hundred and 84 people in the United States. All these numbers just reiterate everyone's favorite break up cliché--"there are plenty of fish in the sea." Ironically, most college relationships tend to have the life expectancy of one of those cute little fish you may get suckered into buying at the fair.

Although many Grammy award winning country songs may tell you otherwise, breaking up is not the end of the world. On the contrary, it's entering a new world, whether that world is a pleasant place or not is an individual choice. There are several typical scenarios of actions people may take in the event of a breakup. In college, it's not unusual to find people who try to party their way out of their sorrows, by putting on an act to show everyone that they are fine, actually more than fine, they just happen to be having the time of their life. Keep in mind the word try; that form of solution is usually as successful as the cafe is in trying to convince students that they are serving "Salisbury steak" for dinner, when the meat of the "steak" has a strange resemblance to the hamburger patties that were being served for lunch that day--just with gravy on top.

Basically people can see right through your charade. A person is going to need more than a beer in one hand and another person in the other hand, to sell the idea that they are completely over someone they were just gushing about last week. The "look at me, I'm a party animal" scenario leads to another common scenario when dealing with a breakup; this involves another type of party, the pity party. Let's just say people don't go nearly as crazy to get invites to these parties as they would to get "cordially invited to Cynthia's sweet sixteen." In reality, people will sympathize with you to a certain degree in the beginning, but they will never fully "experience your pain," so no need to make them experience another type of pain by having them sit through the same tragic story over and over again.

The best way to handle a break up is to combine various degrees of both scenarios. You want to do things that make you happy, by going out with friends to help take your mind off things, but be honest with yourself. No one is going to label you as a weak person for being upset. Just don't fall in the trap of forgetting about what use to make you happy before ever getting in a relationship, and instead putting emphasis on what is now missing that did make you happy. With every "single person's" favorite holiday lurking right around the corner, it's easy to feel the remorse and pain comparable to the feelings that come with one's team not making the Super Bowl. However, when you think about it you really have nothing to be upset about. Couples have one day, that's 24 measly hours, to celebrate their love for each other. On the other hand, single people have three hundred and sixty four days to buy lavish gifts and eat chocolate. Please, I do that daily.

Play to confront our role in social issues

By Allana Barrett Editor-in-Chief

Michael Hunt wants us to examine our involvement in society and the actions that we are willing to endorse for our own protection. That's the central theme of "Biedermann and the Firebugs," this semester's theatre production that Hunt, a teaching fellow in theatre, will direct.

"Biedermann und die Brandstifter," or "Biedermann and the Firebugs" as it is commonly translated, was written in 1953 by Max Frisch, a Swiss architect, playwright and novelist. The play is a dark comedy that takes place in a town that is regularly attacked by arsonists. Some suggest that "Biedermann" was written as a metaphor for Nazism and shows how far normal citizens can be taken in by evil.

Even the title contains irony and humor--the name Biedermann is a play on the German word "bieder" meaning conventional, conservative, worthy, or upright. The play's action is observed by a chorus of firemen, following the classical Greek style, which is one of the things that drew Hunt to the play.

"As a director, I was looking to work with a chorus," said Hunt. "We had been reading Greek tragedies in class, and I was reminded of how dynamic the dialogue between individual and community could be." The chorus will be made up in part by the UVa-Wise stage team. Ultimately Hunt chose "Biedermann and the Firebugs" because of its "accessibility, the currency of its ideas, and its humor."

Despite the fact that it was written in the 1950s, its theme is relevant today, he said. "The issues central to the play are those that are central to our society at present," Hunt said. "Faced with a threat to domestic tranquility (arsonists/terrorists), it is important to examine our own complicity, and the measures we are willing to enact for our protection." "The production is designed to help the audience connect

to its ideas, and to recognize our world on the stage," Hunt said. "Certainly firemen became emblematic of heroism after 9/11, and the play expands the images of 'protectors of society' to include the continuum from Homeland Security to Blackwater private security forces."

"The stage will be filled with that mix of bombed out buildings and middle class accoutrements that the media has been showing us for the past thirty years--from Beirut to Kosovo to Baghdad," he said.

Auditions were held on Jan. 22 and 23 and they were publicized with posters that inspired talk among students.

The posters displayed an image--that of an Abu Ghraib prisoner--that had many students confused. But, Hunt said it was chosen for a reason.

"I wanted a powerful, graphic image that would immediately conjure all kinds of meanings--the war on terror, excess in the name of righteousness, the demonization of our enemies--for me it's an image that short hands all the issues examined in the play," he said.

A number of students, however, seemed to think that it was a KKK member depicted on the posters.

"I thought the image was immediately recognizable, that the Abu Ghraib photos were part of our collective consciousness at this point," Hunt said. "Defining the picture as KKK says a number of things--about the way we read graphic texts, deep seeded anxiety about race, and the fact that knowing the news is no longer a universal value, no longer a societal expectation."

Since firebugs, arsonists, and the themes of Nazism and World War II bring an explosive image to the mind, Hunt said that the use of pyrotechnics will figure into the play.

"We're creating a world that's already and constantly exploding," Hunt said. "We'll be using standard pyrotechnic devices designed for safe use in a theater, gas jets, all of which will be managed by our technical director, Jonathon Taylor and the actors onstage. We're hoping to create powerful illusions."

Search for new IT director continues

SEARCH from page 1

of the Department of Math & Computer Sciences. "As for the math and computer science departments, a good technology infrastructure is necessary for our degree programs and actually helps when recruiting new students," Edwards said.

This round of the search will have the added benefit of having Chancellor Prior directly involved. "The Chancellor will be directly and personally involved in this search," Combs said. "It's a matter of finding the right person for the money we are able to offer."

When we finally have a new vice chancellor of IT students will see a difference in the quality of the college's technology services, Combs said. "We will have someone to make sure that enough of the right technology and equipment is in the right place to fulfill student needs," said Combs.

Month of events to highlight Black History

MONTH from page 1

"The Color of Water," McBride's tribute to the life of his white mother--who was born to a rabbi in Poland, was raised in the South, fled to Harlem, married an African-American man, founded a Baptist church, and put 12 children through college.

The college will also host "Gospel Fest," a festival featuring the talents of regional gospel musicians such as the Rev. Jake Ravizee, Grace Livingston, the Rev. Todd and Charlene French, Flora Patterson and "Changed."

A soul food luncheon will be held in the cafeteria on Feb. 21, at 11 a.m. It will precede history professor Tom Costa's presentation on 19th century advertisements of the slave trade and runaway slaves. Costa will deliver the lecture at 1 p.m. on the fifth floor of the Student Center.

"Celebrate Black History 365 days a year, understand that it's not exclusively for Black people, but for all people," Campbell said. "[T]here are a lot of things that Black people had to do with history in general. I think that's the most important thing."

One-man drama performances are scheduled for Feb. 23 at 1 p.m. in the Rhododendron Room of the Student Center and Feb. 24 at 11 a.m. on the fifth floor of the Student Center.

Evaluations beneficial

EVALS from page 1

course. They want to know what they can do to make their courses more effective."

Williams said student course evaluations have helped her change her classes to make them more effective. She said the evaluations have also been used to make changes to the Spanish program, as a whole.

"I definitely have changed my course based on [evaluations]," she said. "As a department we've changed the 100 level Spanish class as a result of what was stated in evaluations."

Williams said that three years ago the Spanish program decided to cover seven chapters in a semester. Evaluations showed that students thought the course load was too heavy. Instructors quickly reduced the load to six chapters.

Harris said that the new evaluation system is made for this generation of computer-driven students. "This generation of students can do anything on the computer," she said. "That it would just be sort of a natural thing for them to do to go to the computer and evaluate."

"Every instructor wants students to evaluate them," Harris said. "They [the instructors] want to know what they think about their

Campaign spending out of control, time to cap it

By Todd Portnowitz Independent Florida Alligator (U. Florida)

(U-WIRE) GAINESVILLE, Fla. -- The primaries are bursting with an assortment of candidates, but don't fool yourself. America becomes less of a democracy every year. America is something different altogether--something I'm going to brand a "Wealthocracy."

In 2008 we, the voting people, will choose from a well-bred herd of millionaires. In fact, if you can't raise \$100 million, you're not a serious candidate for presidency. And wealth involves more than just money--you need connections, status and, preferably, sex appeal. Apparently democracy isn't for everyone.

Officials of the Federal Election Commission predict the two candidates who make it to the 2008 showdown will have raised more than \$500 million apiece. That sounds like a figure Dr. Evil would name as the punch line to a joke in "Austin Powers." Unfortunately, no one's laughing.

In the 2004 presidential elections, President Bush raised \$270 million and Sen. John Kerry \$235 million. Bush even honored his largest donors by naming them his Pioneers and Rangers. I wonder how long this man has been using morale-boosting rhetoric.

Sen. Hillary Clinton has already turned down public

funding for 2008, confident that she can raise \$150 million from private donors. Other candidates from both parties are following in her footsteps. There is an overwhelming trend toward taking donations solely from companies, friends and, more recently, hedge-fund owners.

Here's how public funding works: If a primary candidate raises an initial \$100,000, he or she receives federal money to match the first \$250 of each donation. Even larger grants are given for the general elections. All said and done, this could mean up to \$123 million per candidate.

Where does the money come from? Us, the taxpayers. Every April 15 on our tax return, there's a little box you can check--or not check--that allocates \$3 for public funding. Only 10 percent of Americans surrender the \$3. The other 90 percent choose to spend that money on a gallon of gasoline.

As far as private donations go, each individual donor can give up to \$2,100 for the primaries and another \$2,100 for the general election to their candidate of choice.

But private donors don't just give money, they function as fiscal and emotional cheerleaders, forming personal relationships with the candidate.

It's no surprise that all this money and support is aimed at the most promising candidates of our two major parties--not the candidates representing less popular parties, or God forbid, those running on their own steam. The only reason we ever

suffered the sight of Ross Perot was his wallet.

All these private donors aren't giving money out of good spirits--they expect future political favors. Everyone has their own agenda. Unless we can rid American politics of corporate leanings, it will never be an honest institution.

It is only fair to demand that public funding be the only available way to raise money for an election, even if it means requiring the \$3 contribution. That would at least undermine corporate-political partnerships, if not dismantle our Wealthocracy.

But there is an even larger issue here. Why not cap all election spending? It's predicted that we will spend more than \$1 billion on the 2008 presidential election. Wouldn't it make more sense to put that money toward the issues these candidates are supposedly fighting for?

Do you have a reaction to the opinions on this page that you would like to share with the campus community? E-mail it to Opinion Editor Kate Baldwin at keb6d@uvawise.edu.

University of Virginia College at Wise logo and contact information for the newspaper.

- List of staff writers including Allana Barrett, Kate Baldwin, Daniel Roblison, Michael McGill, Amber Adams, Spencer Adams, Whitney Bentley, Emahunn Campbell, Aaron Collier, Cody Dalton, Simon Henry, Jenna Johnson, Brittany Padgett, Reid Salomonski, Nancy Stickle.



New major benefits college, community

NEW MAJOR from page 1 Galyean said.

"There is a very real need for music teachers, especially in Southwest Virginia," Galyean said. "One of the top priorities is to retain music teachers. There has been a high turnover rate in many of the band programs in Wise County over the past few years, and we hope that by training students from this area and introducing students from outside this area, that they

may want to remain in their position and not move on." And, students were excited to learn about the new major. "I'm really excited because I've always been real passionate about music," said Heather Jones, a junior who will declare her major as music. "I'm not in a position to be far away from here, so the addition of the music major made me really excited."

Advertisement for 'Worried About the Weather?' featuring a bear illustration and text about weather-related products.

Sports Briefs

Women's Basketball

For the second time in college history, a women's basketball player has reached the 2,000-point mark.

Senior Sarah Helton scored her 2,000th point in the Lady Cavs' 89-66 victory over Virginia Intermont on Jan. 27.

Currently, Christy Gray-Dalton holds the record for most career points with a total of 2,172.

Helton also won AAC Player of the Week honors twice in January--after averaging 24 points and 11 rebounds in the Lady Cavs' win over Bluefield and losses to Pikeville and Milligan, and again after averaging 27 points and 8.5 rebounds in the losses to Covenant and Virginia Intermont.

Men's Basketball

Junior guard Jarred Soles earned AAC Player of the Week honors on Jan. 29. Soles averaged nearly 22 points per game in the team's loss to Covenant and win over Virginia Intermont.

Soles also reached 1,000 total career points in the loss to Covenant. He was the lead scorer with 17 points.

He leads the Cavs this season averaging just over 16 points per game and 51 total three-pointers.

Zydrunas "Z" Rackauskas earned AAC Player of the Week for the second time this season on Jan. 22.

The sophomore forward averaged 16.5 points and 9.5 rebounds per game in losses to Milligan and Bryan and the win over Union.

Volleyball

Coach Dallman and the rest of the Lady Cavs are already working to strengthen next year's volleyball squad.

The Cavs have signed five top recruits from the area to try to make next year's team a championship contender.

New recruits include Maggie Berry and Heather Jones from Rye Cove; Samantha Puyrea of Tennessee High; and Kaitlin Collins and Rebecca Smith from Lebanon.

The team also held their awards banquet on Jan. 27. The team's MVP award was given to Natasha Viers. Kate Daub and Brittney Lawson earned Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year, respectively.

Other honorees included Cara Hamilton as Team Player of the Year and Kristen Salyer as Most Improved.

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

Men's & Women's Basketball

Tuesday, Feb. 6
Cavs at Montreat
5:30

Thursday, Feb. 8
Cavs vs. Alice Lloyd
5:30

Viers to represent Cavs on U.S. National Team

By Cody Dalton
Staff Writer

NBA great Michael Jordan once said, "I've always believed if you put in the work, the results will come."

The truth is that most athletes do work their entire lives to showcase all of the talent they possess, but one local UVA-Wise student athlete will be doing just that on a very big stage this May.

Junior volleyball player Natasha Viers received word last week that she will be a participant and an ambassador for the USA Athletes International volleyball team this May. Viers will also play in the annual "Barbados vs. USA Friendship Volleyball Tour" that runs from May 31 through June 7.

"The feeling of going to Barbados with team USA on the front of my jersey is one that I don't think I can describe in words," Viers said. "I'm thrilled and just really excited to play the game I love the most, as well as travel to Barbados."

Viers, a physical education major, was selected by the USA Athletes International (USAAI) for her success on the volleyball court and in the classroom. She earned her second All-Academic team honors this season for the Appalachian Athletic Conference. For her play on the court, Viers also won All-NAIA Region XII team honors for the second time in her career, as well as All-Appalachian Athletic Conference first team.

"We were all very proud of her," said sophomore teammate Kristen Salyer. "Tasha's play on the court is very impressive. This says

a lot about just how great of a player she is."

USAAI, a non-profit organization, works in conjunction with the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) to promote athletic competition for athletes in volleyball and 12 other sports. This organization gives athletes not selected to the USA National team, a chance to have a similar experience.

An Abingdon, Virginia native, Viers has already begun training for the trip she will embark on in May.



"I'm lifting weights three times a week early in the morning, conditioning, and trying to really watch what I eat," Viers said. "It's hard at times, but I know I'm doing all of this for the sport I love and it will pay off when I get down there."

Fellow co-captain and senior Kate Daub had absolutely no doubts about Viers's playing ability and why she was selected to the team.

"Natasha has always been an extremely talented athlete," said Daub. "I always knew that she had the skills to do anything she put her mind too. We were all very proud that Natasha was selected."

Viers said she has overwhelmed by the support she has received from her teammates and said that receiving this honor is a culmination of everything she has done since she started playing volleyball.

"I feel like everything I've put in even since high school has led me to this wonderful experience," Viers said. "I always dreamed of playing professional volleyball but I never thought it would come true. All the 5 a.m. workouts, the running, and the stress have been well worth it."

Water polo kicks off spring intramural season

By Whitney Bentley
Staff Writer

Take a moment and let your mind drift back to elementary school and recall the one day out of the year that was free of school work and filled with friendly competition.

For a college student, field day is a fond memory of childhood that can be relived this spring when the Intramurals department holds its own field day here at UVA-Wise.

"We're going to have sack races, watermelon eating contests and even tug-of-war," said intramurals coordinator Joel Williamson who had the idea holding field day for the first time this spring.

Since UVA-Wise hired Williamson to assist Chris Davis full-time in the Intramural department, the college has been able to expand the number of intramural activities that it offers.

"We went from 94 total events last year to 112 events this year," said Davis.

The addition of Williamson's position for full-

time also gives the department the opportunity to hold smaller events. Ping-pong, video games, pool, badminton and UNO are a few of the tournaments offered that will last no more than a day, or maybe even one afternoon.

Major sports this spring such as water polo, softball, Nerf football and even a bowling league will also be offered to students.

An odd sport to be played in the dead of winter, water polo, a combination of soccer and basketball being played in a pool, kicks off intramurals as the first sport offered in the spring term.

"We noticed how underutilized the pool was so we decided to play water polo," Davis said.

UVA-Wise's heated, indoor pool is host to 14 teams participating in water polo. Williamson noted how the students, especially newcomers to the sport, were excited to play and said that shouts of "great", "awesome", and "fantastic" were heard at the conclusion of games.

Nerf football, which was created by Davis, will begin

immediately after the water polo season. This form of football is played in the gym with rules similar to flag football in addition to being able to play the ball off of the walls.

"We are one of the very few colleges that play some form of Nerf football," said Davis.

Davis took the opportunity of the available gym space and found a way to fill it with something UVA-Wise students can participate in. The intramural department is always looking for a way to provide activities for students.

"If a student comes to me or Chris with a suggestion [for an activity, sport, or tournament that they think should be offered] we're going to try it," Williamson said. "We've even had a four-square tournament before."

The intramural department's dedication to its students is apparent through its many extracurricular activities that it provides them. Spring semester will be overflowing with diverse opportunities to take part in these events so be ready to play hard.

From the Sidelines

Winter Teams Struggle, Spring Looks Bright

For the second issue in a row, I find myself struggling to come up with one single topic to concentrate on for this column. So once again, I'm going to talk about a few things that have been happening in the Cavalier sports world.



Daniel Robinson
Sports Editor

I am sure most of you can already guess what my first topic will be, and that is the dismal showings of both the men's and women's basketball teams.

If you have been keeping up with my column throughout the year, you may remember the issue when I placed both of these teams on a pedestal and praised them as two of the best in the conference. I believe I said something like...how did I put it?

"A men's team with something to prove and women's team with the talent to prove anything."

Of course I still heavily believe this to be true but neither team's record is helping me out much.

As of Friday, February 3, the team's records stand as follows. The men are 7-17 overall with a 4-9 record in the Appalachian Athletic Conference (AAC) while the women are 6-18 overall and 5-8 in the conference.

However, there have been some bright spots beneath these depressing numbers.

Senior Sarah Helton became only the second Lady Cav to reach 2,000 points in a career in the women's victory over Virginia Intermont on January 27.

Also, junior Jarred Soles reached 1,000 points in the Cavs loss to Covenant on January 23.

As of now, the men's team is 7th in the AAC while the women stand in the 8th position.

It's important to note that the season is far from over. There are still five conference matches remaining and the AAC tournament will be played at the end of February.

Since every team in the conference automatically gets into the tournament, there's no telling what will happen. So don't give up on our Cavs just yet, folks. There's still a lot of ball left to play.

I'm going to switch gears a little bit and take a brief glimpse into the spring season.

Preseason polls for both the baseball and softball teams have been released and each looks to be in good position.

The baseball team has been picked smack dab in the middle of the conference standings. The team is picked to finish 5th while Tennessee Wesleyan is the favorite receiving 8 first place votes.

Hopefully, this means that the Cavs are good enough to beat the teams below them, but also good enough to surprise the ones above.

(If you haven't figured it out by now, I am a very biased sports writer. Go Cavs!)

As for the softball team, many believe they are poised to take the district outright.

The team has tied for in the preseason polls with Tennessee Wesleyan each receiving two first place votes. However, it is a little weird that the 3rd ranked team, Milligan, received three first place votes.

Nevertheless, the Lady Cavs have earned their number one ranking by being named AAC champions four out of the last five years. They were AAC tournament champs in 2006 and Region XII tournament champs in 2005.

I'm looking forward to going into more detail about both these teams and other spring sports teams as the seasons get closer. The Highland Cavalier staff and I will do our best to run in-depth previews of all the spring teams.

Be on the lookout for those articles and more as we get closer to the end of the semester.

CAVS' SCOREBOARD

Women's Basketball	Men's Basketball
January 20 Cavs 54, Bryan 67	January 20 Cavs 61, Bryan 65
January 23 Cavs 70, Covenant 76	January 23 Cavs 55, Covenant 63
January 27 Cavs 89, VA Int. 66	January 27 Cavs 85, VA Int. 74
January 30 Cavs 60, King 58	January 30 Cavs 77, King 88