Cancer claims beloved prof

By Britney Padgett
Staff Writer

Dana Sample, an associate professor of history who was described by colleagues, friends and students as energetic, caring, dedicated, down-to-earth, "a big sister" and good humored, died of cancer on March 22. She was 50.

Sample joined the college's Department of History and Philosophy in 2000. And, although she was known to have a passion for many areas and eras of history, her specialty was early modern European history.

"Dana was thoroughly dedicated to what she was doing," said Brian Wills, the Kenneth Abery Professor of History. "She made sure she did things to the best of her ability. Everybody always wanted her to be involved with their committees, and her only problem was she always did it," he said.

"She made our department so much better and richer for everyone in it," Wills said. "You don't and can't replace someone like Dana," he said, "but you have to carry on the things that were important to her."

"There is a terrible void here," Wills said. "I especially remember her caring personality and her genuine interest in and impact on so many students."

"Anytime you needed help, both in and outside of class, the was always there for you," said Tiffany Faren, a senior history major. "She inspired me to go many ways and I'll always be thankful for that." Outside of the classroom, Sample helped to bring a chapter of the history honorary society, Phi Alpha Theta, to campus. And, she had served as director of the college's Peace Honsors Program.

"Dana's work with Phi Alpha Theta allowed students to attend conferences where they could present papers and gain experience as knowledgeable scholars," Wills said. "Work was her love and love was her work."

Those who knew Sample or, for that matter, anyone who passed by her decorated door knew that she was her work." She would always joke that he was the love of her life," he said. Sample's caring personality and friendship made an impact on many students.

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OPINION

By Cody Dalton

Every year, students on the campus of this fine institution embark on one of the most heart-wrenching and mind-boggling experiences they will have. I usually want to say, "Yes, there is a place called Saltville. And why are seniors on campus not given seniority in this instance? Isn't that what attending a college outside of your comfort zone is all about?"

As I pass people on my way to class, I hear the controversy. "Sure," someone will say, "Virginia vs. Southwest Virginia." I'm not gonna lie. I had to make use of MapQuest to figure it out. It seems that there is a difference in being from and not from here—not from here—who is scared of arsonists. Everyone in the town is. The fire department is on a mission to put an end to the arson. The town is taking extreme measures to prevent further violence. People are$a$ng for hours in the library, trying to come up with new ways to combat the situation.

There has been a lot of talk recently about Northern Virginia. There, you learned something today. Why are seniors on campus not given seniority in this instance? Isn't that what attending a college outside of your comfort zone is all about? Why are students from the Hampton Roads area not given the same recognition as students from the mountains of Virginia?

I don't get angry when people don't know my hometown. I just tell them: "Yes, there is a place called Saltville. And why are seniors on campus not given seniority in this instance? Isn't that what attending a college outside of your comfort zone is all about?"

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The Lady Cavs softball team is on the rise after slow start

By Anna Collier
Staff Writer

The Lady Cavs struggled at the start of the season posting a 2-11 record during the first month and a half of the season. But now a month later the Lady Cavs find themselves with a 3-1 record. The Lady Cavs are currently second in the AAC, 9-0.

Junior John Blake Graham said for the Lady Cavs to improve they needed to start playing better. "I think that [the schedule] really made us a lot better," said Blake. "It helped us learn a lot about the game of softball." Although the team struggled through the tough opening two months of the season, they have improved every time they go to the field. "Our pitchers are getting better," Raby-Gentry said.

"The more they throw the more comfortable they get," Raby-Gentry said.

Now the Lady Cavs have won 10 of the last 12 games. Senior Amanda Wheeler and freshman Lauren Snead have improved every time they go to the mound and that is all due to the coaching staff. "Seniors and catchers Tori FIsht said the players feed off each other and that helps them go out and give their best on the field." "If one person gets a hit it seems just like it sets us off and we can do what we need to do and what needs to be done," Wheeler said.

"The only thing I ask her to do is improve on her curve ball," Raby-Gentry said. "We have all said that for years."

"Our pitchers are getting better," Raby-Gentry said.

The Lady Cavs still have a long road ahead before they start the AAC tournament on April 26.

"We finally got a few games under our belt and some wins," Newton said. "I think we can only go up."

The Lady Cavs are currently second in the AAC, with a 15-8 record. The Lady Cavs will next face non-conference opponent Emory & Henry on April 18.

Rabbie's hits three home runs, but not enough for Patriots

Sophomore Brad Robbins had a big offensive day against the Patriots, following a 6-3 loss to Union College on March 31. It was the team's first three home runs of the season.

Sophomore Brad Robbins was hit by a pitch during the Cavs series against Alderson-Broaddus earlier this month. He was out for a week and a half, but was back in action on April 18.

Robbins' solo home run and three-run shot in the first game of the doubleheader both went against the Jays. Following their three home runs.

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