SGA introduces new Student Senate for the fall semester

by Ashley Bukeavich
Villager staff writer

For the past few weeks, the Stevenson University Student Government Association (SGA) has been preparing the Mustang community once again for a new executive board for next school year.

This year, the process is unlike any other. In efforts to better represent the student body, the SGA has decided to revamp its entire government structure and provide more opportunities for students’ voices to be heard.

“While we have encouraged participation in the past, there were limited outlets for students to actually get involved with the organization,” said Jen Milam, assistant director of student activities and SGA advisor. “This year, we are excited to not only reorganize our executive board, but we will also be introducing a Student Senate.”

The new addition of the Senate will allow students to serve as liaisons between the academic schools and the SGA executive board.

Two students from each of the five academic schools will attend monthly meetings, join specific committees within the SGA, review club budget and funding requests, assist in Homecoming activities, and help address other student concerns.

Since each candidate for the executive board ran unopposed this year, there was no need for the typical election process. The new executive board will soon begin selecting the Student Senate.

SGA’s objective is to improve undergraduate student campus life and allow the new structure of the government to make a significant, positive impact on the university. Stevenson University is constantly growing, so the ability of the SGA to adapt and reassess is now a critical tool in its future success.

“I think this new structure will really allow students to make a difference,” said Kristin Baione, current SGA director of public relations, digital media. “We all have different strengths and opinions that can benefit our campus in one way or another; I think it’s crucial to reach out to as many students as we can so that we can get a variety of ideas.”

Housing selection process made easy for SU’s resident students

by I’Quille Williams
Villager staff writer

The housing selection process is an opportunity for current resident students to find new roommates and choose the rooms in which they want to live for the upcoming school year.

Selection is based on a lottery process in which the numbers are randomly generated for all students. A $200 non-refundable deposit is due on Friday, March 7, by 4 p.m. in order to secure a spot living on campus. Checks can be brought to the Residence Life office or the fee can be paid online.

In order to choose a room, there has to be a full roommate group of at least four or six people. Roommate formation cards can be found on the Stevenson website. If a group formation card is not complete, students are still encouraged to submit them. These groups will be taken care of after the full groups have selected.

If students are looking for roommates to complete their group, there is a binder at the Residence Life front desk that has roommate prospects in it.

In addition, there is a Roommate Social in the Racliff Community Center on Monday, March 3, at 8 p.m. for students to meet other residents who are also looking for roommates.

Roommate formation cards are due Friday, March 21, by 4 p.m.

Room selection lottery numbers and times will be sent to students’ Stevenson e-mails by Friday, March 28. One representative from each group will come to Residence Life with their signed housing contract along with the meal plan designations, and they will be allowed to see which rooms are available.

Sarah Mansfield, assistant vice president of residence life said, “We want as easy a process for our students as possible... Independence is something that comes in steps.”

One improvement from last year was no need for the typical election process, contact Residence Life.

Where is WildStang?
Be on the lookout in each issue of The Villager for a hidden WildStang. Send a picture of where you found WildStang to suvilager@gmail.com for a chance to win a prize at the end of the semester.

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Book signing brings prominent agent, negotiator to campus

by Ashley Mil
Villager staff writer

Ron Shapiro, a writer, agent-attorney, and well-known negotiator, came to Stevenson University as a guest on Wednesday, February 26, for a book talk and signing of his latest book, “Perfecting Your Pitch: How to Succeed in Business and in Life by Finding Words That Work.”

Shapiro, who was awarded the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree in 2003 from Stevenson University, also runs the Shapiro Negotiations Institute. He has gone on tour for his new book while serving as an agent-advocate for many high-profile baseball players.

His newest book, “Perfecting Your Pitch” is about using words and language to help communicate more effectively.

A concept that Shapiro discusses in his book is “The Three D’s,” which include Draft, Devil’s Advocate, and Deliver.

This process “leads to a higher level of success and satisfaction in the myriad of interactions with others,” according to Shapiro. The Three D’s will aid communication in any situation and allow one to think thoroughly before responding.

The event included Shapiro signing books for faculty and students, and also talking to the Stevenson community about the contents of his new book as well. “Perfecting Your Pitch” is the fourth book Shapiro has written.

Shapiro helped to establish a lecture series at Stevenson seven years ago in honor of the business communication department.

Business communication department chair, Chip Rouse, said, “All Ron’s books are very practical, [and give] down-to-earth advice about success.”

Some of the insights in “Perfecting Your Pitch” that Shapiro mentioned included taking time to think about what you are going to say, building negotiation skills by good listening, and learning to understand the subtext.

Those who do not want to participate in the event are encouraged to attend the game. There will be prizes given out during the game and at halftime, and a raffle is also on the schedule.

The game will consist of two 20-minute halves as well as a halftime show. During halftime, spectators will be chosen from the audience to attempt a half-court shot, sponsored by Sodexo. Whoever is lucky enough to make the shot will win a cash prize. There also may be a slam-dunk contest included in the halftime show.

During the previous two years of March Madness, the staff has defeated the students, and will try to go for a three-peat in this year’s event. Many of the same staff members from the past two winning teams will return to play in this year’s tournament.

Andrew Clayton, the March Madness event organizer, expects a great turn out for this year’s activity. He has asked M.C. McFadden, administrative coordinator for the athletics department, and Chip Rouse, chair of the business communication department, to serve as commentators for the game. This is a chance for the Stevenson students and staff to show support for Relay for Life of the American Cancer Society.
“You, Me, and Japan” exhibit showcases students’ experiences

by Elizabeth Jerzyk
Villager staff writer

On Feb. 27, the Greenspring Pavilion was open to students, friends, and family gathered for the reception of the “You, Me, and Japan” art exhibit.

In March 2013, 13 students and alumni, along with three faculty members from the School of Design, traveled to Japan. During their travels around the country, they visited Hiroshima, Osaka, Kyoto, Hakone, Kamakura, and Tokyo. They came back with many amazing photographs and the experience of a lifetime.

Student photographer Evan Shidler explains, “When you are visiting a place like Japan, there are times when you struggle to take pictures because in the back of your mind, you know a photograph won’t do these sights justice. There were plenty of times when I wanted to stop taking pictures just so I could focus on what I was fortunate enough to be seeing with my own eyes.”

The reception included world-renowned performing artist Mark H. Rooney, who performed taiko, a form of body drumming that is a part of Japanese tradition. There were Japanese foods, including sushi, chicken karnage and an assortment of other Asian tastes.

“You, Me, and Japan” is curated by Matthew Laumann, the cultural programs manager at Stevenson. He describes it as a “great exhibition; there are really beautiful photographs that allow you to see what they saw and learn something.”

Over 30 photographs have been framed, matted, and are on display, including three large photographs on canvas. A week’s worth of experiences are featured in the artwork, such as the different temples and markets that the group visited.

Shidler explains, “I have a lot of photographs from the trip that I couldn’t be happier with, but some of the sights that I didn’t capture, the ones I kept for myself, are likely the ones I’ll cherish the most.”

The exhibit is on display until May 16. Other exhibits are also on display this month, which are free to students and the public. “Landscape and Memory,” an exhibition of Baltimore landscape painter Michael Bare, is open for viewing now through March 29 in the Gallery on the Greenspring campus.

Career fairs offer tips for success

by Jasmine Stuart
Villager staff writer

Emerging technology and creative networking events are making it easier than ever for Stevenson students and graduates to find employment.

Experimental learning coordinator Jennifer Wheeler believes that it is important for students and graduates to utilize all of the resources that Career Services has to offer when preparing for career fairs and networking events.

While job searching, it is crucial that students have their resume reviewed to make sure it is in the best shape possible. They should also prepare an “elevator speech,” which is a 30-second speech about what students have to offer employers. This allows potential employers to get a feel for what careers a student is interested in and why one might want to work for their organization.

Career Services has also organized a new networking event that gives School of Design students a unique way to interact with potential employers. The event is called, “Design Your Brand,” and will take place on March 27 in the Rockland Banquet Hall, from 3-6 p.m.

This distinct networking opportunity will allow students of all majors to interact with employers and learn about opportunities in the design field.

The event will feature a guest speaker, Kate White, former editor of Cosmopolitan. There will be a roundtable discussion that will give students the opportunity to network with employers in order to gain firsthand knowledge about what it takes to be successful in the design industry.

Stevenson University will also host a career fair on April 4 in the Rockland Banquet Hall, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. The fair is open to all majors, and will feature employers from a variety of industries.

The emergence of a new cell phone app, Grupio, is now making it easier to search for jobs at a career fair. The app allows attendees to access relevant and concise information before, during, and after the event. Grupio gives attendees the employer’s name, description, location, and link to their website.

Junior CIS major Sterling Brunson said, “Grupio allows me to get the most out of attending a career fair. I am able to easily find and gain necessary information about the employers I want to meet.”

Career Connections is also improving its website so that students can maximize their job search potential. The website now includes “Career Shift,” a feature that pulls employment opportunities from popular job websites such as Monster and Career Builder, to make more jobs available to students.

Wheeler believes that the best way to prepare for a career fair or networking event is to practice talking to people as much as possible.

“More events you attend, the more confident and comfortable you will feel talking about yourself to employers. Remember, Career Services is here to assist you and to ensure that you are as prepared as possible,” she said.

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Destinies Change

You are going about your day, doing your usual activities—classes, homework, clubs—then suddenly you are in tremendous pain.

Have you ever broken a bone or had an operation? Were you born with a medical condition, one that might have laid dormant for decades? If you personally haven’t, you probably know somebody who has, or you will have something happen to you one day. You need help immediately, but what if the only way to get it is to pay tens of thousands of dollars—money you just do not have?

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (2010), better known as “Obamacare,” decreed that no one can be denied insurance because they have a pre-existing condition. What’s that mean? It means that President Barack Obama made sure that you stay on your parents’ insurance policy until your 26th birthday; and that any expenses from an unexpected stay in the hospital will be covered. Most of the money is being taken care of for you, so the cost of care is one less thing you have to worry about, a heavy weight off your shoulders in a time of hyper-anxiety.

At some point in your life, the odds are in favor of your having to go to the hospital for an operation, or watching a friend or family member have to go through one. Obama’s health care policy will calm your parents’ nerves; they know they would not have to pay a great sum of money for extended care. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act covers pre-existing conditions: medical conditions you were born with but for years may not have known you had.

Republicans regard this law as being too invasive. You do not have the right to demand that the government cover your insurance costs, they claim; it is a free country. But it was decreed that you can stay on your current health care plan in lieu of switching to the Affordable Care Act.

The president mandated that if you currently lack health insurance, you either get on the bandwagon or have extra penalties applied to your taxes. Who wants to pay extra money when there is a way out? I regard this law not as being excessively controlling, but as something that has the potential to help 300 million Americans.

Cecily Strong’s jest of little people seems small-minded and offensive. Sometimes combining careers can be a great challenge. If it seems as if you’re doing only one thing and that one thing isn’t making you happy, try looking at it a different way. I may not be a rock star on the radio yet, but Stevenson has made me a rock star in the business communication department. After seeing someone post a screenshot of one of my songs playing on a friend’s iPod, I know that I have fans here.

During your visits to career fairs, job searches, and class registrations, I urge you to be adventurous and explore something new. Young people start to consider what their parents want for them, what their friends are doing, and maybe even what they are advised to do by someone they admire. Regardless of what these factors are, destinies change shape and size every day. It is each person’s job to mold a destiny into something beautiful.

I have always wanted to incorporate music into my future. In fact, in high school, when asked if I were going to college, I always said, “Yes, but I want to be a rock star.” Now, in my senior year at Stevenson, my destiny has changed shape so many times, especially since I started my college career as an undecided student.

When professors and classmates ask me what I’d like to do with my life, I still smile and tell them I’m going to be a rock star. Although most people would believe that this dream is out of reach and that the odds are not in my favor, I see my destiny as a combination of everything I am trying to be.

While a lifetime isn’t that long, and it can seem impossible to achieve every one of your goals, combining your passions is absolutely essential. In the Stevenson community, I have met professors who, after working for global companies, decided they wanted to teach, and I’ve even met professors who currently teach and write books or do research in their free time. These people are inspirational because they have taken the opportunity to transform their destinies into something complex and colorful.

Sometimes combining careers can be a great challenge. It seems as if you’re doing only one thing and that one thing isn’t making you happy, try looking at it a different way. I may not be a rock star on the radio yet, but Stevenson has made me a rock star in the business communication department. After seeing someone post a screenshot of one of my songs playing on a friend’s iPod, I know that I have fans here.

During your visits to career fairs, job searches, and class registrations, I urge you to be adventurous and explore something that might help shape your destiny. Think of all the people who are successful in the many things they do and know that you can achieve something wonderful by being yourself and doing everything you had always wished to do.
“Popular Science” offers information on technology, science, and current events

by Alexandra Nelson
Villager staff writer

The March issue of “Popular Science” magazine features an in-depth study on sleep, five do-it-yourself projects, 28 must-have gadgets, robots being built by Google, and much more.

Every issue of “Popular Science” has diverse articles that appeal to many people. There are articles for those who crave knowledge about innovation and technology, those who appreciate architecture, those who enjoy playing video games, those who play with gadgets, and those who seek to gain knowledge about a variety of topics.

The March issue of the magazine has a seven-page article that informs readers about a “new” material used to build homes and offices and might possibly be used to build skyscrapers in the future. This special cross-laminated timber has been used to build an office building in East London that is nine stories high.

Wood, which was once thought to be too weak to support large buildings or skyscrapers, is actually proven to be sturdy in the event of a fire, and it is extremely environmentally friendly, according to this article.

The March issue also includes an article about a solar-powered drone designed to fly nonstop for five years. This will save money, time, and resources during research. The drone will act as a geostationary satellite, powered by solar cells on its wings.

A nine-page article on sleep includes statistics concerning sleep from around the world, tips for better sleeping, and a quiz to measure how well sleepers sleep. This article also outlines catastrophes that have occurred due to a person’s lack of sleep.

This compelling article makes it very obvious that seven to eight hours of sleep every night is necessary to function properly. By exemplifying the Chernobyl nuclear meltdown, the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and the American Airlines flight 1420 crash, the article highlights connections between lack of sleep and disasters.

Information on new technology of the future accompanies an article on trash and recycling as well as how these factors affect the environment. This spring, the Inner Harbor in Baltimore will be home to a self-powered waterwheel that picks up floating trash. A sketch of the machine is shown as well as a picture of the prototype, which was created in 2008.

The only criticism of this magazine is that a few articles are broken up, either by ads or because there is a lack of space. The article on wooden architecture takes up six pages in a row, then the last few paragraphs are located 10 pages later.

This issue, like every issue of “Popular Science,” has something for everyone. The magazine is not just for those who enjoy science but rather for anyone who is interested in learning.

The magazine is written at a moderate reading level, and everything is explained in depth and with enough detail for the reader to be able to grasp the concept or event easily.

With a subscription, “Popular Science” is less than $1 per issue, making it affordable for anyone to dive into the world of science, technology, and current events.

Maryland Live Casino provides fresh entertainment

by John Coombe
Villager staff writer

Maryland Live Casino, located at Arundel Mills Mall, has an entertaining atmosphere that provides memories, winning, and an overall great time for friends and family.

This casino has a very convenient location with many options for parking. All of the elevators from the parking garage go directly into the casino lobby, which provides additional convenience.

Some casinos in Atlantic City have parking garages and casinos in two separate locations, which creates an obstacle for visitors who have to take a shuttle from the garage to the casino. Maryland Live has avoided this inconvenience by building their parking garage on top of the casino.

Another feature of Maryland Live is the restaurant options. The casino itself has its own restaurant which includes a full menu and a seafood buffet for just $29.99. This is a great deal because it includes all-you-can-eat crab cakes and lobster tails.

Just outside of the casino, some of the restaurant options include Phillips, Cheesecake Factory, DuClaw Brewery, and Bobby Flay’s Burgers. The wide variety of restaurants accommodate whatever type of food visitors might be craving.

Maryland Live offers many types of casino games. A wide variety of slot machines includes everything from the original pull-down lever to the new upgraded slot machines.

The casino also offers numerous table games include Black Jack, Texas Hold ‘Em, Poker, Craps, and Roulette. One disadvantage to playing the table games is that the minimum hand is $25, which can be expensive for someone who wants to spend the entire day in the casino.

During weekdays, free drinks are handed out to the table players, which encourages people to continue playing.

Floor Manager Bill Davies said, “We give you a great experience and great atmosphere here at Maryland Live. If you have not been, you should get down here.”

The only downfall at this attraction is that it can be extremely crowded on the weekends. Critics have referred to it as a “mob scene,” and people are often unable to move and walk around comfortably.

The ratio of slot machines to tables is about 12 to 1, so people who do not arrive early on a Friday or Saturday night might not have an option to play table games.

Many hope that Maryland Live Casino is only the beginning of the presence of casinos in Maryland. This place gives people an idea of how Las Vegas casinos are, and it is a great place to go for people who want a new experience.

Jay-Z’s album provides refreshing new hip-hop style

by Christopher Newkirk
Villager staff writer

Platinum recording artist and business mogul Jay-Z entered the music industry in 1996 when he released his debut album, “Reasonable Doubts,” which is still known to be a classic today.

After delivering classic hip-hop music over the past two decades, Jay-Z recently released his 12th solo album, entitled “Magna Carta Holy Grail.” Surprisingly, he decided to promote his newest album in a completely different way compared to his promotional techniques in the past.

He used television commercial that appeared in 2013 during the NBA finals, which proved to be a great marketing technique.

During the commercial, Jay-Z announced that he had signed a deal with Samsung and that the album would be available on an app, exclusive to Samsung phones, on July 4.

Because he recently started a family, fans were unsure about the quality of Jay-Z’s new album. Needless to say, he didn’t disappoint his loyal fan base. The album had mixed reviews but overall ended up going platinum within minutes, selling over 1.1 million copies in the United States alone.

It begins with the Grammy-nominated hit, “Holy Grail,” which features vocal artist Justin Timberlake.

This track is catchy and gives the album a strong start.

The second song, “Picasso Baby,” is another hit that the artist certainly put hard work into creating. With its catchy hook, the song goes into detail about the struggles Jay-Z has had to overcome in order to achieve his goals.

“Tom Ford” is a highlight of the new album because it has a strong message. It tries to convey that young people should not spend money on partying and drugs.

More so, it is about enjoying life and taking part in the luxuries that money can buy, such as high fashion.

The last song, which is a soothing track and a great way to bring the album to a close, is entitled “Nickels and Dimes.” This track is Jay-Z’s view on how far he has come and how blessed he is. He raps about how he can still please his fans and about what is in store for the future.

Overall, “Magna Carta Holy Grail” gave Jay-Z a competitive edge, especially during the Grammy awards. Although he is a seasoned artist, he continues to make hits that please fans and critics.

The album is refreshing because Jay-Z approached it in such a different way, which sets it apart from most other rap albums that are popular. Although this album might not meet the standards of someone who enjoys classic hip-hop albums, it is still one of the more promising albums that Jay-Z has released and it provides listeners with catchy songs that have strong messages.
Plagiarism, which takes many forms, has serious consequences for all

by Leanne Magyar
Villager staff writer

Plagiarism is an action that students in just about every setting have heard of sometime in their life. According to the Pew research center, 55 percent of college presidents said that plagiarism in student papers has increased over the past 10 years, and in that group, 89 percent said computers and the internet have played a major role in the rise of plagiarism.

According to the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, the word “plagiarize” means “to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one’s own, to use another’s production without crediting the source, to commit literary theft and to present as new and original idea or product derived from an existing source.”

Plagiarism is stealing, and is considered fraud. A variety of situations such as putting one’s name on someone else’s work, writing incorrect citations, copying word-for-word from a source without proper credit, as well as other strategies, all qualify as plagiarism.

College students face the stress of plagiarism on a daily basis. In the age of technology, it is easy to hit a few buttons, copy and paste someone else’s work and simply replace their name with one’s own.

“It has become easier for students to select what sounds good, and press a few key commands rather than spending the time to do the work,” said Jasmine Moses, a Stevenson student.

According to Plagiarism.org, a type of plagiarism can even be found on the popular social network Twitter if a re-tweet is done improperly. When re-tweeting, not including the original Twitter handle can be seen as stealing words and portraying them as one’s own.

Students who choose to plagiarize can face harsh punishments for their actions. Universities see plagiarism as a serious offense, and those who commit this unethical act traditionally receive the proper punishment. At Stevenson, the punishment of plagiarism varies based on the situation, and plagiarism is considered a violation of Stevenson’s Academic Code.

If a professor believes a student is guilty of plagiarism, the Stevenson University Handbook states that the professor of the student who plagiarized will bring the accusation to a formal matter. The professor will talk to the student in a meeting to assess the situation and inform the department chair of the incident to decide the proper sanctions, which can include failure of the course. A report is then made and submitted to the department chair and the assistant vice president of Academic Support Services; further, the student must sign as recognition of the infraction. Students can dispute the report if they choose. After this process, all parties involved come together for a meeting to talk about the specific incident and the proper consequence. Stevenson does not take plagiarism lightly, and neither should students.

To avoid plagiarizing, since it can be committed by accident, there are a few tips that students can take. First, make sure to cover all of the bases by keeping open communication with professors; it doesn’t hurt to ask questions.

Students should also create outlines to organize information and make sure correct sources are credited. There is no such thing as overcitation, since it is better to cite every source than to be accused of plagiarism.

Finally, self-plagiarism does exist. Do not take work completed for a class and submit it for a different class.

Many methods of prevention help to stop cheating in various settings

by Conrad Ellis
Villager staff writer

Cheating is unethical, illegal, and morally wrong. This statement is drilled into students’ heads countless times during their education. Although students know cheating is bad, it still happens constantly.

Therefore, the prevention of cheating is extremely relevant on all campuses.

In a New York Times article titled “To Stop Cheats, Colleges Learn Their Trickery,” Trip Gabriel writes about a new technology system that is taking over the world. Turnitin.com, used by 9500 high schools and colleges, offers a technology targeted at the prevention of cheating.

Turnitin.com is a technology system where students can submit written assignments that are compared with a plethora of archived web pages, as well as many student-written papers. The system reviews papers for citation accuracy and plagiarism. However, even Turnitin has had some trouble with students.

“The best-known service, Turnitin.com, is engaged in an endless cat-and-mouse game with technologically savvy students who try to outsmart it,” Gabriel said.

Some teachers have also tried the old-fashioned method of trust to decrease the percentage of cheating taking place in their classroom. Teachers have said that if they automatically go into the classroom expecting their students to cheat, then that might make them want to cheat even more.

Other institutions such as Columbia College actually have a cheating prevention guideline on their school website. Some of the methods that the college advises their teachers to take include having different forms of the same exam so that the questions are in a different order, requiring students to write a pledge on their exam before they take it, and preventing students from leaving the classroom unless it’s an emergency. Once students leave, it is assumed that they are done with their exam and will not be allowed to reenter the classroom.

Cheating will probably never be stopped permanently. However, educational institutions can decrease the percentage of cheating, so that the number of students who cheat decreases with time. Perhaps the idea is to stop thinking about how to treat cheating after it happens, and instead, think of how to prevent it from ever happening in the first place.
Growth of technology encourages dangerously innovative cheating methods

by Sam Schaeffer
Villager staff writer

School systems across the country give tests and assign term papers regularly, with the expectation that students will perform to the best of their abilities. However, schools are finding that students are violating academic honesty policies in a way like never before through technology in this “digital age.”

For the past three years, the use of cell phones, graphing calculators, and the forever-growing Internet are just a few ways students are finding the answers to difficult math problems during tests or a cheat sheet that went viral online. Many students also use texting as a way to cheat on tests, especially if those tests are multiple choice.

According to the Chicago Tribune, Car-ol Baker, president of the Illinois Science Teachers Association, blames the Internet for making it too easy for college students to gain unfair leverage on assignments.

“Today, kids are used to obtaining anything and, within seconds, they can find an answer. Although this is helpful for students, it can be considered plagiarism if students copy word for word what is already written and call it their own.

“I think kids don’t have the same sense of, ‘Gee, it’s wrong to take something that somebody else wrote,’” Baker said. “The Internet encourages all of us to do that.”

But not all cheating is based in technology. From rubber-band bracelets to notes taped to the back of an ID card, students have consistently found new ways to avoid having to study.

In addition, some students pay online paper-purchasing websites to write their papers for them, with the websites claiming they do not plagiarize and that all papers are 100% confidential. These commercial services, which took root over 50 years ago, still thrive today.

CNN’s Carol Costello talked to one of these paper writers who resides in Asia. He explained how the writing brings him a regular cash income, and how 90 percent of online term paper buying comes from the United States.

“There’s a huge demand for academic papers in the United States,” the student said. “It’s unethical, but I come from a Third World country, it’s good pay, and the temptation is too great.”

Don McCabe, a professor of business at Rutgers University, leaves one final thought that compares cheating to the corruption that has taken place in America’s financial sector.

“Students just watch what’s happening in the larger society,” McCabe said.

“They see the deterioration of ethics and say, ‘With everything that’s going on in politics and on Wall Street, what’s wrong with a little cheating?’”

Despite harsh consequences, cheating still rampant on college campuses

by Connor Skeen
Villager staff writer

Academic dishonesty is rising on college campuses due to student’s development of and desensitization to the habit during high school.

Over the past years, cheating has been on the rise in high schools, no longer carrying the negative connotation students once had towards it.

Cheating is not just an issue for struggling students, but also for high-achieving ones. According to an article in The New York Times titled “Harvard Says 125 Students May Have Cheated on a Final Exam,” 125 undergraduates who took a final exam were accused of cheating. This incident is reported as the largest cheating scandal at any Ivy League school in recent memory.

According to the Center for Academic Integrity, about 86 percent of high school students say they have cheated at one point in their academic career.

Students who cheat in high school often bring the habits with them to college. A survey by a professor at Rutgers University shows that about two-thirds of students admitted to cheating during their four years of college.

One reason that the scope of cheating has risen is due to a major shift in the ethical environment. A rise in cheating indicates that the behavior has become more prevalent in school environments, which in turn, changes their attitudes towards cheating, desensitizing students to the problematic unethical behavior.

Perhaps the rise in competition and pressure students sometimes feel is accountable for this rise in cheating. But research indicates that this behavior affects students not just while in school, but during their careers as well.

According to the website CheckForPlagiarism.net:

A study by the Center for Academic Integrity found that almost 88% of college students admit to cheating at least once.

A survey by the Psychological Record shows that 36% of undergraduates have admitted to plagiarizing written material. A poll conducted by US News and World Reports found that 90% of students believe that cheaters are either never caught or have never been appropriately disciplined.

Educators believe that it is important for schools to start focusing on maintaining a firm position against cheating by students at an earlier age before they develop the habits. Schools also need to hold students more accountable when they are caught being academically dishonest.

Some student cultures today accept academic dishonesty as a matter of course, so in order for schools to lessen the scope of this problem, they need to reinstate a culture of integrity. Such a move goes far beyond checking papers for plagiarized portions.
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The Villager | March 3, 2014

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Approved July 29, 2013

STEVENSOn UNIVERSITY

2014 MEN’S LACROSSE HOME SCHEDULE

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<tr>
<td>SAT, MAR 1</td>
<td>WESTERN NEW ENGLAND</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED, MAR 12</td>
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<td>SAT, APR 19</td>
<td>SALISBURY</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED, APR 23</td>
<td>MESSIAH*</td>
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*Commonwealth Conference game

2014 WOMEN’S LACROSSE HOME SCHEDULE

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For tickets or more information, visit GOMUSTANGSPORTS.COM.
It’s tax season! For many this could mean stressing to find receipts, crunching numbers, and getting back the money you are owed. For many college students, filing taxes is a task about which they are unsure and uneducated.

So much money is left unclaimed by college students, because they are unaware of their rights and don’t know all the possible deductions they may be able to claim.

According to the Internal Revenue Service Information Center, tax credits, deductions, and savings plans can help taxpayers with their expenses for higher education. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, more parents and students qualify for a tax credit.

The IRS states that the American Opportunity Credit is available to individuals whose modified adjusted gross income is $80,000 or less, or $160,000 or less for married couples filing a joint return.

The Lifetime Learning Credit assists parents and students in financing post-secondary education. For the tax year, a parent or student filing as independent may be able to claim a lifetime learning credit of up to $2,000 for qualified education expenses paid for those enrolled in eligible education institutions. There is no limit as to the number of years that the Lifetime Learning Credit can be claimed for students.

All parents and students are eligible for the credit if they pay the education expenses for an eligible student, if they pay qualified education expenses of higher education, and if the eligible student is either the individual enrolled, or a spouse or a dependent they claim on a tax return.

Another deduction that would assist the majority of college students with filing taxes is the Student Loan Interest Deduction. Usually personal interest paid is not deductible on tax returns, but there is a special deduction allowed for paying interest on student loans used for higher education.

This deduction can reduce the amount of income subject to tax up to $2,500. The deduction only applies for students, spouses, or a person who was a student’s dependent when the loan was received. You can use the IRS’s Interactive Tax Assistant tool to help determine if you’re eligible for educational credits or deductions.

There are a variety of deductions and credits that college students may use to get the best results from filing their taxes. Whether students are computing and filing their taxes on their own, or getting them done by experts, they should make sure they get the money that is owed to them for being a hard working college student who pays taxes.
Congratulations to the 2014-2015 SGA Executive Board!

President: Christopher Ambrose  
Vice President: Tara Shishmanian  
Secretary: Courtney Parto  
Director of Finance: Jordyn Smith  
Director of Philanthropy: Andrew Clayton  
Director of Student Groups: Diamond “Nel” Spedden  
Director of PR-Digital Media: Will Comotto  
Director of PR-Print Media: Ashley Mil  
Junior Class Representative: Annie McCooch  
Sophomore Class Representative: Emily Thursby

Please note that all of the candidates were running unopposed this year so there is no need for an election.

SGA is still recruiting for the new Student Senate!  
The deadline has been extended to March 14, 2014.

Two senators will represent each of the following areas:

- School of Business & Leadership       - School of Sciences
- School of Design                      - Athletics
- School of Education                   - Commuters
- School of Humanities and Social Sciences - Residence Life

Nomination forms are available on the SGA website.  
Please read all instructions & requirements before submission.

For more information visit sga.clubsstevens.org or email the SGA at sga@stevenson.edu.

The Stevenson University Marching Band is currently accepting new members.

Learn how you can become a Marching Mustang at marchingband.stevenson.edu or contact Director of Bands Mark Lortz at 443-334-2124 or at mlortz@stevenson.edu.

The Stevenson University Marching Band plays Yamaha brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments; Remo drumheads; Vic Firth sticks and mallets; and Zildjian cymbals and gongs exclusively.

STEVENSON UNIVERSITY
Imagine your future. Design your career.
Men's lacrosse to defend

by Meghan Rockwell

Villager staff writer

The men's lacrosse team season thus far has been a tough one for the Mustangs, but the team is dedicated to defending the NCAA Division III national title.

Coaches Paul Cantabene and Tim Puls, along with the 76 men who make up the team, believe that their practice time in the winter weather will make them more prepared for what is to come this season.

Cantabene said, “Winter weather has been tough for the guys this year because of wind chills and low temperatures. Some of the guys got sick because of that. We hope the snow stays away, but it has definitely been harder for the fellows in the colder conditions.”

Nearly two decades ago, the men's lacrosse team was just a club team. Now the fellows in the colder conditions.”

“Winter weather has been tough for the guys this year because of wind chills and low temperatures. Some of the guys got sick because of that. We hope the snow stays away, but it has definitely been harder for the fellows in the colder conditions.”

“We usually have a game one at a time, but some games are bigger than others. Usually Salisbury, Roanoke, Cortland and of course RIT are the bigger games, but the team takes it one day at a time,” said Cantabene.

RIT came to the Carrier Dome with a vengeance on Feb. 22 and beat the Mustangs in overtime, 15-14. Senior Glen Tompkins scored a career-best five goals.

“There is always pressure to repeat. We take it one year at a time and we have a lot of talented individuals who can play the game very well. With a lot of hard work and determination, we are looking forward to the challenge,” said Cantabene.

The team is counting on players including Glen Tompkins and Sam Wyatt to lead the Mustangs this season. Both Tompkins and Wyatt scored twice against RIT. Additionally, Kyle Hololchek, Dimitri Pecunes, Toni Rosini, and Brent Hiken are all be key players this season.

Midfielder J.P. Coombe shared his feelings about the season so far.

“The season is going good so far. The preseason proved to be a tough one with snow and single-digit temperatures, but I think that shows our resilience and our willingness to be able to push through, day in and day out. This season, the team definitely has the possibility to make another run at the title, and that's what our overall goal is.”

“There is always pressure to repeat.”

~ Paul Cantabene

SU softball hopes to top 2013 season

by Jasmine Moses

Villager staff writer

The Stevenson University softball team returns all of the starters from last season, in addition to a few promising freshmen.

The team is aiming for an even better season than will not only bring victories, but also bring the team closer together.

The Mustangs finished 2013 24-23, winning half of their games at home and on the road. Their 2013 season had many highlights, including the team’s appearance in their first conference championship.

“The #1 highlight of our season was definitely going to the MAC Commonwealth Conference Championship. We made it for the first time and we came in second, but it was still the highlight of our season,” said pitcher Briana Pichalski.

She added, “We also set a school record of 24 wins in a season and made it to the semifinals of the ECAC tournament.”

Along with these accomplishments, the team had their third 20-win season. The Mustangs were selected as one of eight teams to attend the 2013 ECAC Division III South tournament. This year, they are striving to follow the same path.

Stevenson softball has had some highlights off the field as well. Head coach Joey Lye was selected as one of 17 women to represent Canada in the 2013 VIII Women’s Pan American Championships in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in August.

Additionally, the Mustangs made an impact on the community. Before the winter break, the team worked with the Adopt-a-Family Program in a community service project. The players and coaches combined funds to buy Christmas gifts for those in the community who were less fortunate.

They also saved old softball equipment and donated it to the International Softball Federation.

Many of the players are serving as big sisters to students at Chatworth Elementary School in Reisterstown.

As a group the team plans on more community service in the future.

The Mustangs are excited to show what they are made of in the 2014 season. The team will play Lourdes University and St. Lawrence University on the road and then will be back at home on April 12 for their double header against Widener University at 1 p.m.

Last year’s stats show SU baseball is ready to hit the field hard and start the season

by Mario Amaya

Villager staff writer

The Stevenson Mustangs are coming off an incredible season where they finished second in the conference with the second-best record in school history.

The team finished with a 25-18 record last year (13-6 in conference), but they came up short in the conference final after losing to Arcadia.

The team is coached by Jason Tawney, who is entering his 12th year as the assistant baseball coach at Stevenson. Now that season is upon them, they are looking to win it all in conference play.

Tawney said, “We are very eager to get started. Coming off of a season where we finished second in the conference, our guys know they left some games on the table. We should have won more. We will cater our top five pitchers and six starters in the field, so we have very high expectations. The snow has slowed us down in terms of games, but it hasn’t damaged our spirit or eagerness to get going!”

Some of the players to watch this season include top starting pitchers Greg Myers and Alex Romanowski.

Myers made first team all-conference last year. He was 10-2 in 12 starts and had a 2.22 ERA, while Romanowski was 3-3 and had a 3.36 ERA.

Other key players this season include pitcher Brooks Miller, who went 6-4 last year with a 4.52 ERA, and shortstop Tom Goulion, who made second team all-conference and all-region in the Mid-Atlantic.

Goulion hit .360, with 45 runs scored in 42 games.

Another strong hitter is Scott Merkel, who hit .310 and 34 RBI’s last season.

The Mustangs have two additions to their roster: transfer students Nick Peifer and Brandon Franks came to Stevenson to add depth to an impressive line-up.

The Mustangs do a great job containing teams because they are very strong defensively.

Tawney said: “Our strength is three-fold. We are very good and deep on the mound. We returned our top five arms from last year and added four more arms to that mix that we are really excited about. We expect our IF defense specifically to be very strong with Goulion at SS, Troy Miller at 2B, Nick Peifer at 3B and Ben Hallam at 1B. Hitting wise, we don’t have one or two hitters; we expect to have nine hitters up and down our lineup that can pick up the slack.”

He added, “We are very balanced with very few weaknesses. I believe that is why we have received votes to be nationally ranked by college baseball newspaper. Our conference preseason hasn’t come out yet, but expect we will be picked to finish second.”

With so many games being postponed due to inclement weather, the Mustangs are anxious to take the field.

“Our short-term goal is to play!” said Tawney.

The snow caused them to postpone their first couple games down south.

Once they get on the field, their goal is to have 10 wins going into their first conference weekend.

Tawney said, “That would make us 10-1.”

The team’s long-term goals are to win the regular season championship and the conference tournament. In the past nine years, they have won various conferences and appeared in championship games five times.

The team will take on Gettysburg College at 3 p.m. on Saturday at Park Field on the Greenspring Campus.
Mustangs volleyball continues to work hard in hopes of reaching championship

by Marilyn Loo
Villager staff writer

At 8-5 for the season, the men’s volleyball team is working hard in hopes of winning the conference and then the national championship.

With eight wins thus far, the Mustangs are currently ranked 14th within the Continental Volleyball Conference.

According to sophomore middle-blocker Kyle Pottenger, “The season started a little shaky. We lost some games we should have won but at this point in the season, we’re working better together as a team and are getting closer to our best everyday.

The team traveled to New York for the Baruch College Invitational on February 21 and 22.

The Mustangs started the weekend playing the 12th-ranked Stevens Institute of Technology and the fifth-ranked Nazareth College on Friday before going up against seventh-ranked Baruch College on Saturday at 2 p.m.

“The more we play these teams, the more we learn from them,” said Head Coach Kathy Railey.

The team traveled to New York for the Baruch College Invitational on February 21 and 22.

The Mustangs started the weekend playing the 12th-ranked Stevens Institute of Technology and the fifth-ranked Nazareth College on Friday before going up against seventh-ranked Baruch College on Saturday at 2 p.m.

During the first and second set of the match against the Bearcats, the Mustangs pulled ahead with more kills and fewer errors. They fell behind during the third set with only 9 kills, 6 errors, and 23 attempts in the loss. With 11 kills, 9 errors and 33 attempts during the final set, the Mustangs ended with 48 kills, 22 errors, 115 attempts and 18 total team blocks leaving them with a .226 hitting percentage and a win.

Stevenson’s women’s lacrosse team readyes for challenging 2014 season

by Lanie Swanhart
Villager staff writer

The women’s lacrosse team has jumped into their spring season after months of preparation. The season may have just started, but the Mustangs have made it onto many lists since last year. The team was ranked 19th in the nation on the NCAA poll for Division III women’s lacrosse, the first pre-season ranking Stevenson has received in the history of the program.

Coach Kathy Railey was named Coach of the Year, and senior attack Marissa Mekljohn was named Player of the Year for the 2013 season. The team has been training hard during the off-season, working on conditioning and team defense.

Railey said, “We are young in the midfield and on defense, so that is where our focus has been for this coming season.”

All players have been training individually and as a team in preparation for the 2014 season.

Railey said that the team’s offensive line looks very strong with starting returners junior Kathryn Merrick, senior Leah Warner and Mekljohn all on the attack line.

The Mustangs’ defense will be led by sophomore Jorden Poretto and junior Amanda LeGar. Both will serve as role models for the team’s young defense.

Junior goalie Leanne Bittner is a key component for the team as well. She will continue to see a lot of action during the season. Sophomore Maggie Lawder will serve in the goal as well.

The team is constantly working on their game strategy “every chance they get,” said Railey. They will utilize their speed and aggression to ensure the best outcomes of every game they play.

The Mustangs started the season with a tough game against Gettysburg College on Feb. 19 with a 15-6 loss.

Gettysburg, ranked sixth in the nation in the pre-season polls, won 19 of 23 draws and controlled the ball offensively for much of the time. Both Mekljohn and sophomore Tori Wagner had two goals and one assist.

Their toughest match of the season was their second match against the defending national champions, Salisbury University, on Feb. 22.

The team started out strong with a 3-1 lead, the most any opponent has had over Salisbury in the past year. With six different scorers, Stevenson played well, but the Gulls outshot the Mustangs 21-15 and won nine of the 16 draw controls. Stevenson lost to Salisbury 9-6.

The Mustangs will play several other ranked teams that will challenge their skills, including Haverford on March 5. In the MAC conference, games against Lebanon Valley on April 12 and rival Messiah on April 22 will be tough as well.

The next few matches will be away, but the Mustangs will be back in action at home on March 29 at 1 p.m. playing Albright College.

UPCOMING GAMES

Baseball vs. Gettysburg --- Tuesday, Mar. 4 at 3 p.m.
Tennis vs. Md. East. Shore --- Wednesday, Mar. 5 at 2:30 p.m.
Baseball vs. Washington (Md.) --- Wednesday, Mar. 5 at 2:30 p.m.
Men’s volleyball vs. Juniata --- Thursday, Mar. 6 at 2:30 p.m.
Men’s volleyball vs. Thiel --- Saturday, Mar. 8 at 2 p.m.
Men’s lacrosse vs. Elizabethtown --- Wednesday, Mar. 12 at 7 p.m.

Glen Tompkins
Senior
Men’s lacrosse

Leanne Bittner
Junior
Women’s lacrosse

Athletes of the Week selected by The Villager’s sports editors