ABC News anchor to address May graduating class

by Michael Stabile
Villager staff writer

Stevenson University will welcome Byron Pitts, current anchor and chief correspondent for ABC News, as the speaker for the spring 2014 Commencement.

Pitts grew up in Baltimore, where he was raised by a single mother and attended Archbishop Curley High School. He has overcome many obstacles in his life, including illiteracy until age 12, and a serious stuttering problem through his childhood.

Through covering major events such as 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, and the war in Afghanistan, Pitts has learned many valuable lessons, which he writes about in his book, “Step Out on Nothing: How Faith and Family Helped Me Conquer Life’s Challenges,” which chronicles his unique struggles and triumphs over fear, death, and despair.

As Katie Couric, anchor and 60 Minutes correspondent said on the book jacket of Pitt’s autobiography, “It seems unimaginable that someone of Byron’s intelligence and elegance could have faced so many struggles as a young man. No wonder he is such an inspired storyteller—his own story is inspiring.”

He won an Emmy Award for his coverage of the 1999 Chicago train wreck, and a National Association of Black Journalists Award in 2002. He has also won four Associated Press Awards and six regional Emmy Awards.

The speaker for each Commencement ceremony is chosen in two stages. First, Sue Kenney, President Kevin J. Manning’s chief of staff, sends a school-wide e-mail to find out whom students would like to have.

Then, she organizes a committee comprised of both faculty and students to sort through the emails. No speaker may have spoken at a past graduation ceremony.

The committee recommends five options to President Manning, who makes the final decision, if the proposed person is available. He makes the offer once the logistics are solidified.

“...it seems to me in this life that we have very few choices that we can make freely on our own, and I think choosing to be optimistic is one of those…”

-Byron Pitts

Commencement ceremonies and events to celebrate class of 2014

by Lanie Swanhart
Villager staff writer

On May 9, the class of 2014 Commencement will take place on the Greenspring campus with two separate ceremonies. The graduating class is the largest class in Stevenson University history.

At 10 a.m., students from the School of Design, the School of Education, and the School of the Sciences will walk across the stage. Another ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. for the Brown School of Business and Leadership and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Both ceremonies will take place in the gymnasium on the Greenspring campus and will last around two hours. Each graduating student has received five tickets for their family and friends.

Byron Pitts will be the speaker for the event. Pitts is a news anchor and chief national correspondent for ABC News. He is a multiple Emmy-winning journalist and has over 20 years of experience in news.

The week leading to Commencement is comprised of various activities for the graduating class of 2014. Senior Week will kick off on May 2 with the Senior Celebration, a picnic for the graduating class after Commencement rehearsal.

Throughout the week, seniors can enjoy their final time together on trips to New York City, Kings Dominion, and Dave & Busters, and during on-campus events including their first alumni happy hour and a senior block party.

On May 6, the Senior Class Council will welcome the seniors and their families to Baccalaureate. This event commemorates the completion of the students’ undergraduate experience at Stevenson University.

Baccalaureate is a ceremony of thanksgiving and reflection. The blessings will be suitable for all religions. It will take place in the Greenspring gymnasium at 7 p.m. All graduating students are welcome and encouraged to bring guests. Graduating students planning to attend should wear their cap and gown.

Nursing students will have their pinning ceremony on May 7, during which they will be presented their Stevenson University nursing pin. Families and friends are invited to attend. This event will take place in the Greenspring gymnasium at 7 p.m.

On May 8, students in the School of Graduate and Professional Studies will have their Commencement ceremony.

Michael Robinson, the director of forensics for Disruptive Solutions, is the speaker of their graduation. He specializes in custom computer and mobile device forensic solutions for commercial and government agencies. This event will take place in the Greenspring gymnasium at 7 p.m.

For anyone looking for more information about Commencement events, Stevenson University’s website has a new page dedicated to the 2014 graduation. The page has a Commencement countdown clock, and explains all the ceremonies and events that lead up to Commencement.

A live feed of the Commencement ceremonies will be available online for family and friends who are unable to attend.
Seniors display their creativity in annual film and video showcase

By Matthew Perry
Villager staff writer

On Thursday, May 1, in the Inscape Theatre on the Greenspring campus, the graduating class of Stevenson University film majors will unveil their hard work in the annual Senior Film/Video Showcase.

A reception will be held in the theatre lobby at 6 p.m., and the showing will begin at 7 p.m. A Q-and-A session with the students featured in the showcase will follow it. The free event is open to the public.

The showcase will feature 15 student short films ranging from 15 to 30 minutes in length and will cover a wide range of genres including action, thriller, and more serious pieces.

Chelsea Clough, a junior film major who helped work on five of the projects featured in this year’s showcase, considers this annual event to be a celebration of the graduating film class.

“It’s a great opportunity to show how everyone’s ideas and skills have grown during their time at Stevenson,” said Clough.

“Filmmaking is hard work, and the students deserve recognition for their efforts,” explained Dina Fiasconaro, the moderator of the showcase and faculty member in the department. “I hope the screening can instill a sense of creative confidence as they move forward in their lives and careers.”

Props, sketches, costumes, and posters will be displayed in the School of Design on the Owings Mills North campus starting April 24 from 6-8 p.m.

Students featured in the showcase include the following:


Fifth annual ‘Bee Green Day’ teaches community about environment

By Nicolette Stoner
Villager staff writer

Stevenson University’s School of Humanities and Social Sciences hosted its fifth annual ‘Bee Green Day’ on Wednesday, March 23, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Greenspring Campus.

Laury Weiner, assistant professor of human services and coordinator of Bee Green Day, explained the initiative:

“We want to raise awareness about environmental sustainability and to encourage everyone to make more sustainability-focused choices in their personal and professional lives.”

Throughout the day, different departments sponsored events for Stevenson’s students, faculty, and staff, promoting the environment, nature, and sustainability issues.

The psychology department held a panel titled, “Why do we harm the environment when we know how to help it? The psychology of environmental sustainability.”

Three guest speakers on the panel included Dr. Kimberley Pause Tucker, director of the Center for Environmental Sustainability; Christina Cears, a psychology major; Dr. Ryan Schurtz, assistant professor of psychology; and Dr. Emily Newton, assistant professor of psychology.

At 10 a.m., representatives from Stevenson University’s Dining Services spoke about how they are promoting a greener environment.

Brian Faith, Ph.D., a professor from the department of biological sciences at Towson University, also spoke on the topic, “Is Sustainability Still Possible?”

Throughout the event, students, staff, and faculty were taught the best ways to be green. There was also information about the challenges of some green initiatives.

The ice cream/snowball truck also made an appearance on the Greenspring campus for those who wanted to enjoy a cool snack.

The English Department held an Ecopoetry Reading in which students, staff, and faculty were able read their original work about nature, the environment, and sustainability.

The last event, “How Can YOU Make a Difference?” allowed students and faculty to learn about internship and program opportunities offered through the Irvine Nature Center in Owings Mills.

Throughout the day, Stevenson’s School of the Sciences made reef balls and taught students and faculty how they can improve the conditions of the Chesapeake Bay in their daily activities.

The Reef Ball Project is helping to fill the gaps between environmental action, science education, and community concern, according to a School of the Sciences publication.

“We Can Green Day brings together Stevenson University’s students, faculty, and staff to raise awareness about environmental sustainability and to educate the community about steps they can take to protect the environment,” said Weiner.

90’s throwback event encourages students to relax before exams

By Megan Rockwell
Villager staff writer

The end of the school year is rapidly approaching and students are feeling the pressure of turning in papers, completing projects and studying long hours for final exams.

The Student Government Association will sponsor an exciting event on April 22, with the hope that it will give students a much-needed break during this stressful time.

The Junior Class Council will hold this event in the Rockland Banquet Room for all students from 7 to 10 p.m.

The event, “Throwing it Back to the 90’s,” will feature a trivia night that relates to everything having to do with the decade. Students can win gift baskets, t-shirts, gift cards and more.

Participants can also make crafts, socialize with one another, dance, and enjoy snacks and drinks from this era. There will also be an oversized Twister board for students who want to play the popular throwback game.

“Because I look forward to hanging out with all of my friends and seeing what I can remember from the 90’s,” Bukeavich said.

“The SGA is all about improving the quality of students’ academic, social, and personal development, among other things; the event is just another opportunity for this association to give students a fun and creative way to improve at Stevenson University,” said Bukeavich.

All students are welcome to attend, and clubs are encouraged to sign up to help run this event.
School of Design students prepare for third annual fashion show

by Elizabeth Jerzyk
Villager staff writer

The School of Design will hold its third annual fashion show on Saturday, April 26, in the Inscape Theater on the Greenspring campus. The show will be followed by a reception in the St. Paul Companies Pavilion.

Seven seniors will showcase their design classes will showcase the collections that they have been working on for the past two semesters.

The show this year is special because it includes the work from the first graduating class in the fashion design major. They have titled the show “Final Cut” to recognize these seniors.

Seven seniors will showcase their work. Fara Topolsky, one of them, explains that all of the designs show each creator's personality. She describes her own collection as something she herself would want to wear.

Topolsky's favorite color is black, but her collection includes a variety of colors and prints. It took her 45 days to come up with about 40-50 designs, including draping and making patterns. Then she narrowed her selections down to the top eight.

Other designers used inspiration from their trip to Italy this semester, channeling designers including Emilio Pucci, Giorgio Armani, and Gianni Versace.

The students' garments are made from many different fabrics, including some that are very challenging to work with, such as jersey knits, chiffon, satins, sequins, feathers, silks, and woods. A variety of different fabrics will be seen on the runway.

The students acquired these textiles from a local store, Mood Fabrics, which can also be seen on TV’s "Project Runway." There will be men's, women's and children's clothing in the show with family, friends, and other students enlisted to model. Two children will be walking down the runway in their mother's designs.

Some design students wear or sell their clothes after the show. Last year, Topolsky sold a shirt to one of her male models after he was so impressed with the way her work looked on him.

Many of the designers plan to continue their careers in fields such as costume design, business, fashion show production, and education.

Tickets for “Final Cut” are available for $10 and will include a gift bag with secret goodies. Tickets can be purchased at the Design Studio in Rockland next to the mail room Monday through Friday.

Chorus and orchestra concerts to honor the Beatles and Shakespeare

by Conrad Ellis
Villager staff writer

Stevenson University’s chorus and orchestra are preparing for spring concerts in late April. The La Primavera choral concert will be held on April 24 in the Pavilion at 7:30 p.m., and on April 27, the “Shakespeare in Music” orchestra concert will be held in the Inscape Theatre at 4:30 p.m.

The concerts celebrate the lives of the world-renowned group, the Beatles, and English poet, William Shakespeare.

The chorus concert will also feature the ukulele and jazz ensemble, the latter of which will provide accompaniment to the Beatles medley performed by the Madrigals. The Madrigals will also be performing music from Shakespeare’s time period.

The group will also perform updates of Shakespeare’s poems, with some of the bard’s notable lyrics set to innovative music. Another significant piece of music will be a composition by the late Marvin Hamlisch, the Broadway composer, who passed away last year.

Celebrating the life of Shakespeare, the orchestra will perform an array of music inspired by the English poet. Most of the music will be from six or seven plays of Shakespeare.

Dr. Robert Suggs, the conductor for this concert, said the most well-known plays include “Romeo and Juliet,” “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” “Macbeth,” “Hamlet,” and “Richard III.” The music will also be excerpted from movie adaptations, most notably “West Side Story,” a modernized adaptation of “Romeo and Juliet.”

After the intermission, the audience will get the pleasure of hearing Suggs’ vocal ability, as he opens the second half with an aria from “Othello,” singing baritone. He will be playing Iago, the villain from the opera.

“Baritones are usually the villains in an opera because of the deeper quality of voice,” explained Suggs.

The conductor/singer is excited for the chance to show off his vocal ability, but he adds that singing for him is a hobby more than a profession.

“I made my main reputation as a trumpet player,” said Suggs.

The two concerts are held near April 26, which is the baptismal anniversary of William Shakespeare. This year marks his 450th anniversary.

The La Primavera choral concert is free, while the “Shakespeare in Music” orchestra concert is $5 for students and seniors, and $10 for the general public.

Black Student Union plans Allure fashion show to showcase their talent

by Megan McSwain
Villager staff writer

Lights. Camera. Action. The stage is set and the Black Student Union Allure models are ready to put on a show. The “Fun House” themed fashion show will take place at 7 p.m. on April 25 in the Inscape Theater on the Greenspring campus.

Victoria Smith, the head coordinator of the show, is filled with excitement. Attendees should not only expect a performance from the models, but also other live entertainment from within the theater department.

Smith’s position as head coordinator entails just about everything. “From hand picking the models, creating scenes, calling designers and scheduling the venue, it’s hard work, but it’s taught me how to delegate a large group of people in a respectable way,” she said.

The former coordinator from last year selected Smith to take her position, and she feels honored to have been chosen for a position that means so much to her.

Even though she is in charge of the show, she still loves to walk the runway with the rest of her models.

“I’ve been modeling for seven years,” she said. “Even though I’m the coordinator, I still love to model more than anything.”

To make this event a success, it takes a lot of behind the scenes action. All of the models have been working hard to give the audience an intriguing experience.

Since the theme for the show is “Fun House,” the audience can expect clothes, music, and exciting scenes that everyone can enjoy.

Allure model Tyazia Scott said, “I assisted in the creation of scene six, it involves some of the male models. The scene has a cute girl and guy interaction that the audience can appreciate.” Scott is looking forward to modeling on a large stage.

This year, the show will take place in the Inscape Theatre. “We have more room to be fabulous there,” Scott said. Last year, the models performed in the Rockland Banquet Room, but this year they have more space in the theatre to give the Stevenson audience a larger show.

Tickets for the BSU Allure fashion show can be bought at the Rock. Tickets bought in advance are $10 for students and $15 for guests. All tickets purchased at the door cost $20.

The doors open at 6 p.m., and the show begins at 7 p.m.

The Black Student Union promotes cultural awareness on campus through a variety of events during both semesters.
Colleges should not be allowed to contact young student-athletes

by Chris Ledgerwood
Villager staff writer

A student is defined as someone who is formally engaged in learning. An NCAA student-athlete cannot exist without enrollment in an institution of higher learning. Recruiting these students as athletes begins as early as their first day of their freshman year of high school, but they cannot make an official visit to an institution until they begin their senior year of high school. The student may, however, travel to institutions for an unofficial visit, which includes minimal contact or benefit considering the interest of athletes. The contact from athletic departments with high school students begins prematurely; even though contact between a student and an institution’s athletics department is limited through their academic career. The policy that students may be contacted as underclassmen for athletic reasons should be revised.

A student may not know what interests them about a college in their early years of high school. There are many components to factor into choosing the right school. Therefore, college athletic departments should not pressure or burden young students with making a decision prematurely.

The Villager is published bi-weekly by the students of Stevenson University. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the university. Letters for submission. Address signed correspondence to the editors-in-chief at suvillager@gmail.com. Letters may be edited prior to publication.

OP ED

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As my final semester at Stevenson University is coming to a close, I’ve found myself drowning in many mixed emotions. Mostly, I’m excited, and I cannot wait to discover what new adventures are waiting for me in the near future. While I’m looking forward to whatever happens next, I’m finding it easier to slip into reminiscing about the past. It’s easy to hang out with other graduating friends and share memories of spring breaks spent rebuilding homes in New Orleans or rooting for the Mustangs during Homecoming weekend. I think what’s harder is just enjoying each moment now.

This past weekend, I got to enjoy dinner after our honor society inductions with fellow business communication students, faculty, and guest speaker, Dr. Charles Steinberg, executive vice president of the Boston Red Sox. As I absorbed Dr. Steinberg’s touching baseball stories, discussed this issue of the Villager with our advisor, Chip Rouse, and chatted with some of my good friends, I realized that I needed to soak in this moment, as I may never experience one like it again.

I’m finding that it’s increasingly important to enjoy the present, as I will be relocating for an internship to Florida for a few months and am not sure what my future holds after that. I could easily find myself back in Maryland after my internship, but if it all goes well, I’ll be making a more permanent move. As these next few months will be full of change, I am trying to be more engaged with those around me. I’m putting away my cell phone and striking up conversations with those I might never see after graduation. I’m making elaborate plans with people who are moving far away. And I’m drenching myself in all things SU, since my days as a student are numbered.

This column could be my chance to be really sappy and thank all of the special people at Stevenson, but, honestly, there are too many to list. Stevenson University has shaped whom I have become. I have the confidence to move forward in a different state, because of the support I gained during my time here. I know that if everything fails after graduation, I have a family at SU who will force me to keep going and help put me in the right direction.

Soon I will experience my biggest moment at Stevenson: finally walking a family at SU who will force me to keep going and help put me in the right direction.

“My perfect vacation would be traveling the whole time, going on road trips with friends, and trying new places.”– Katie Cavanaugh, biology, sophomore

“My ideal vacation would be hanging with friends or going back to Ireland. I could also exercise more.”– Shannon Henretty, nursing, senior

“My perfect vacation would be traveling to another country and exploring or going camping.”– Sam Schaeffer, business communication, junior

“My ideal vacation would be a road trip through the south, backpacking, meeting new people, and seeing new places.”– Matt Hurley, business administration, senior

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Eric Church’s new album entices both country and rock and roll fans

by Sam Schaeffer  
Village staff writer

American country musician Eric Church recently released his fourth studio album, “The Outsiders,” on February 11. Following its release, the album has propelled Church to an even higher level of country music stardom.

November 2013 was the debut of Church’s single, “The Outsiders,” in front of a national television audience on the CMA Awards. According to Billboard, the album began in the win column, as it debuted number one on the Billboard 200.

Joy, Church’s longtime well-regarded music producer since the singer’s first demo recordings, produced the song. In an article in the “New York Times,” Joyce talked about Church’s development as an artist while they both were creating the album.

“Just this year, Eric becomes a little more confident in who he is and what he can do,” Joyce said. “This time around, he was less interested in making the painting perfect and more interested in capturing the actual moment.”

The album kicks off with the single, “The Outsiders,” a song that features Church playfully snarling the opening verse, giving the sense that “outsiders” are those who are simply proud to be who they are.

The song makes listeners feel as if they do not have to be part of the “in crowd.” Immediately, they get the sense that this is not a stereotypical country album but is reminiscent of a classic rock album with a southern twang.

Other tracks, such as, “That’s Damn Rock & Roll” and “Devil, Devil,” bring on Church’s transition to a new kind of sound. These are the longer tracks on the album and almost sound like a jam session. The tracks contain many experiments with different bass lines and electric guitar riffs.

On the other hand, several tracks, including “A Man Who Was Gonna Die Young” and “Talladega,” bring fans fond memories of Church’s previous albums, “Sinners Like Me” and “Chief,” the latter of which won Album of the Year at the 2012 CMA Awards. The songs “The Outsiders” and “Give Me Back My Hometown” have a lot of potential to be performance friendly songs, as the choruses of both songs provide the opportunity for an arena singalong.

In the end, critics and fans alike have caught on to the new album. “Rolling Stone” called it a “cross section between new-school storytelling and ‘bro country’…his success raises the bar for the future of country [music].”

For the blue-collar, classical country fan, this album would fit nicely into any collection. It may have a “new country” sound, but in an environment where country music artists copy one another’s pop-country style, Church keeps his music in a unique, authentic style.

Even the avid rock and roll fan would thoroughly enjoy this album because Church is reaching out to gain new fans while playing the music he loves.

“Rolling Stone” gives readers unique, daring articles

by Connor Skeen  
Village staff writer

“Rolling Stone” is a magazine that focuses on current politics and popular culture. The magazine is also known for its scrutiny of current music and the recording industry.

This magazine was founded by Jann Wenner, the editor and publisher, and Ralph J. Gleason, a music critic. Rolling Stone has been published every two weeks by Atlantic Media Company since 1967 in San Francisco, Calif.

The new music sensation, Lorde, is on the cover of Issue 1201. Lorde is new on the scene of popular music, so it’s fitting for her to be on the cover of the magazine.

The magazine’s advertisements are fitting to its audience, consisting of ads that range from phone carrier companies, to Beats Music, a company that sells music products.

In the article, “Inside the Grammys Rebound,” the writer discusses how the Grammys pulled out of a recent ratings slump. The ratings were down due to a fallout in the number of viewers of the Grammys, but this issue has turned around due to the unique performances that took place at the most recent Grammy Awards.

“How Sherlock Made Holmes Sexy Again” is an article that contains information about the new spin on the classic story of Sherlock Holmes. The article discusses how the season finale of “Sherlock” has created roaring debates leading up to the third season’s premiere.

The article “Laura Jane Gace’s Fresh Start” is an example of one of the magazine’s better features: the writers are not afraid to discuss daring subjects. This particular article discusses the singer of “Against Me!” leading the band through changes after coming out as transgender.

In “The Stealth War on Abortion,” the writer presents information about the restrictions recently put on abortions supported by the Tea Party and some Christians. This story provides more daring subject matter for readers, which continues to keep the magazine interesting.

The main article in this issue, “The New Girl,” talks about Lorde and her journey to fame. The article also focuses on her life and what she is doing currently.

Overall, the magazine has a strong balance between content and imagery, providing the reader with a set of articles that are both informative and well-written.

The articles are up-to-date with popular culture, which is beneficial to readers who want to receive updates on the ever-changing American lifestyle, especially in the music industry.
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The Villager staff congratulates the Class of 2014.

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New Sodexo general manager contributes fresh dining ideas

by Brittany Doss
Villager staff writer

Stevenson’s dining services recently made a change in staff, bringing in a new general manager. John “Luke” Lukeivic has been at Stevenson for about a month, and he has some new ideas for the Sodexo dining services at all three SU locations.

After 30 years of service, Lukeivic retired from the United States Navy, where he was Director of Food Services for the U.S. Naval Academy.

He was introduced to dining services when he received his first job in food service at the age of 15. So when he joined the Navy, there was no question that he would be an honor graduate in the culinary program.

Dining services held a “Meet and Greet” in the Marketplace last month to formally introduce the new general manager during which students discussed their concerns about on-campus dining. Lukeivic has implemented multiple changes since the “Late Night with Luke” event.

“The menus are being tweaked because the students have asked for more variety,” said Lukeivic.

The menus will begin to have more than one focus. Lukeivic stated that dining in the Marketplace will no longer be predictable. He shared his ideas of daily changes to the pasta and grill stations.

Changes will also be made with the staff in the Rockland Marketplace. Instead of coming into the kitchen commander style, he wants the staff to know that he’s here to help and improve whatever areas need improvement. Staff members are currently undergoing several customer service training classes.

“Customer service is essential, and I want the staff to interact more with our students because it’s [the student] dining experience that’s important,” said Lukeivic.

The changes in customer service will create a new dining experience, and the students and the staff will become a unit if all goes as planned.

In order to improve the services, Lukeivic encourages students to speak up. There are several places to make comments and offer suggestions to Sodexo, including an SU dining services web page that can be accessed through the SU Now portal. Students can also share ideas on Facebook by liking the Stevenson University Dining Service Page.

“The comment cards are still available in the Marketplace, and we would like for students to start including their names and email addresses so we can contact them directly,” said Lukeivic.

Students can expect several changes when they return in fall 2014. Besides interior design changes, there will also be new hours, services and options.

Lukeivic’s office is located in the Marketplace, and students are welcome to meet with him to discuss ideas before leaving for summer break.

Students to present their research at ECA conference and APA convention

by Jasmine Stuart and Sterling Cooper Smith
Villager staff writer

Each year, conferences are held by both the Eastern Communication Association as well as the American Psychological Association. Stevenson students will be attending both.

A group of eight business communication students will travel to Providence, R.I. on April 24 for the 105th Annual Eastern Communication Association Conference, which will be held at the Omni Providence.

The theme of this year’s conference is “Communities of Dissent: A Lively Experiment in Dialogue, Diversity & Discord,” inspired by the city’s long and distinguished history of dissent.

The students will join communication professionals from all around the Easy coast for four days of workshops, round table discussions, and presentations about the theories and applications of communication. They will present their research as part of the two-day Undergraduate Scholars Conference.

Traveling with the students will be Chip Rouse, department chair of business communication, who will present her research on communication misinterpretations in internships, Dr. Lecanne Bell McManus, who will discuss her latest text, “Conflict Between Persons: The Origins of Leadership,” and Stephanie Venni, associate professor, who will present research on travel writing narratives.

The faculty members will also chair and respond to other presentations at the conference.

The business communication students will discuss their research on social media, examining the gender differences in usage. The students’ research indicated that women tend to reveal more personal information via social media, while men are more interested in facts. The group will also sit on another panel about student organizations within the university setting.

“I’m looking forward to learning more about communication as well as connecting with university students who are also studying within the profession,” said Michelle Larkin, a senior business communication student, who will be attending the convention.

The faculty in the major have made it a point to include students in research and travel. The relatively new Undergraduate Scholars Conference makes it possible for students to present research to their peers.

“Lots of students from universities up and down the east coast put in proposals to be able to participate in the ECA,” Rouse said. “It’s great that our students have the opportunity to be presenting their research and ideas on two panels this year.”

Some psychology students will attend the American Psychological Association convention, a regional event held annually in August. This year’s convention will be held August 7-10 in Washington, D.C.

The convention will also include a series of workshops designed to address current issues in psychology.

Last year was a success for the students who applied to be part of the convention with all but one research project being accepted. Only about 100-150 projects are accepted a year in the entire region that ranges from Maryland to Maine, according to Dr. Jeff Elliott, the psychology department chair.

Students have the chance to showcase their research through posters and presentations. These projects are then judged and reviewed by psychologists and can be eligible for different types of awards.

“This event is perfect for students who look to build their resumes to get into graduate school and also helps them with networking,” said Elliott, who attends the APA convention with Stevenson students every year.

Elliott also explained that the competitive nature of the convention will prepare students to be competitive when applying to graduate schools and help strengthen their academic insights through participation.
Fashion design students travel to Italy in study abroad course

by Leanne Magyar
Villager staff writer

Stevenson’s fashion design program participated in a study abroad trip over spring break to learn about the global fashion market.

Students enrolled in course FDES 280 were given the opportunity to travel to Italy, visiting Milan, Florence, and Prato from March 7-15, 2014. Ten students, as well as three faculty members and four guests, traveled the long 4,183 mile journey to Italy.

The course aimed for students to understand design from a fashion capital, grasp the fashion industry in a different culture and learn the history of Italian fashion. The course was taught by associate professor and program coordinator Sally DiMarco.

Students were expected to attend all abroad experiences planned, keep a journal as a reflection of the trip, create a digital portfolio, and participate in a Stevenson University exhibition at the Pecci Museum Lounge in Prato.

Each destination unveiled a new experience for the travelers. DiMarco used each location to illustrate her networking skills through Facebook to ensure students would have a true inter-cultural experience overseas.

Milan featured the design house of Trussardi. Known for its high quality letherwork and luxury accessories, Trussardi has gained a great reputation both in Italy and globally.

Travelers were shown the inner workings of the design house, exploring the production lines of high-end clothing. Although the area is normally off-limits to visitors, Stevenson students were given the opportunity to learn from a local artisan.

After Milan, students traveled to Florence, where they toured the museums of Gucci and Ferragamo.

The next destination was Prato, which created many learning opportunities. Lectures proctored by the director of fashion art Italy allowed students to learn about clothing styles manufactured in Italy.

Students observed textile printing and design was observed at the Cavalli couture house. Students showed their technology and communication skills to the creative directors at Cavalli.

Stevenson ended up being front-page news in Prato. An article written in the local newspaper Stevenson students highlighted the activities that occurred over the two-day stay in the city as well as reactions of students to the study abroad trip.

On March 15, the “Io, Tu, e La Moda Italiana” exhibit opened at the Pecci Museum in Prato. An article written in the local newspaper Stevenson students high-lighted the activities that occurred over the two-day stay in the city as well as reactions of students to the study abroad trip.

Members of Campus Crusade travel to Florida on mission trip

by Jessica Keech
Villager staff writer

During spring break, three members of Stevenson’s Campus Crusade for Christ traveled to Panama City Beach, Fla., to share the Christian gospel throughout the city, while worshiping and growing together as a group.

Marissa Cote, Madeline Rochow, and Philip Bromhal bussed to Panama City Beach to share their stories and lives with anyone they had the chance to meet in hopes of winning people to faith in Jesus Christ. Rochow, a leader in CRU at Stevenson, described her experience as “Big Break” as life changing.

“I was able to meet people from all over the country that shared my faith, and we were all there for the same purpose, to serve God and share the gospel,” she said.

Each day, the students ventured to the beach and surrounding areas to begin conversations with anyone that was willing to listen or share their own personal stories.

Rochow said they not only were able to grow in faith, but learned various communication skills at the daily meetings. Students were able to learn evangelism techniques that were not forceful or hurtful, but would help them successfully connect with individuals of all spiritual backgrounds.

Bromhal, the president of Stevenson’s CRU, described his favorite method of evangelizing as laying out 50 pictures in the sand and asking individuals to answer spiritual questions using one or more of the pictures on the ground.

“It was great because it made people curious,” said Bromhal. “They would come to us and ask what we were doing with all these pictures, which led into great conversation.”

CRU travels to Panama City Beach each year because of the immense number of young people who visit during that time of year.

“It’s the spring break capital of the world,” said Bromhal. The CRU members shared the Christian gospel with everyone they met. Total numbers included over 5,400 conversations and 165 conversions to Christianity, in accordance with their organization’s mission to “Win, Build, Send.”

Students aim to win lives for Christ, build them up in faith and spirit, then send them to win and build others.

“I would definitely encourage other students to join CRU and come on Big Break next year,” said Rochow. “Everyone is welcome, even if you are not a Christian.”

CRU meets weekly on Wednesdays for bible study, and Tuesdays for general group meetings. The club is open to any interested students.
ADVERTISEMENTS

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ARTS AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS

La Primavera
April 24, 7:30 p.m.
St. Paul Companies Pavilion
Greenspring campus

The spring showcase of Stevenson University musical groups directed by Robert Suggs, D.M.A., Music Director and Conductor, and Jared Denhard, Adjunct Instructor of Music, features the chorus, the Ukulele Symphonette, and the jazz Ensemble.

Greenspring Valley Orchestra
Shakespeare in Music
April 27, 4 p.m.
Inscape Theatre
Greenspring campus

The Greenspring Valley Orchestra, conducted by Robert Suggs, D.M.A., Music Director and Conductor, presents a program of music inspired by Shakespeare.

Tickets: General admission $10, students and seniors $5. Call 443-334-2433.

Senior Film/Video Showcase
May 1, 6 p.m. Reception, 7 p.m. Screenings
Inscape Theatre
Greenspring campus

This showcase celebrates the talents of graduating film/video majors.

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Students in college would most likely assert that one of the main things they are in need of is money. A job search is the way to start bringing in some extra income.

While employers are looking for responsible and reliable potential employees, the stereotype of the college student doesn’t always influence employers in their final hiring decision. This is where being fully prepared for a potential interview is essential. Knowing how to increase your chances of getting hired is one of the most important job search tools today.

Confidence is key. Employers need to be convinced upon the first meeting that you would be a perfect fit for their position. Being optimistic with an organized and complete resume is a recipe for that great first impression.

Things like proper interview clothing, good personal hygiene, a strong smile and handshake will help make a good first impression, but the rest of the interview will depend on your performance, including your interpersonal skills, and your ability to be direct and clear, and your attentiveness to what’s happening during the interview. Try to relax when you can.

Job seekers must be fully conversant about the skills listed on their resume. Be prepared to answer questions about anything on your resume in order to impress the interviewer. Of course, make sure the resume is formatted and written in a professional manner. In this particular area, the resources on campus can be used to your benefit.

Here at Stevenson University, Career Services can show job seekers how to create a resume, edit it for clarity and completeness, and format it so that it is visually appealing. They even perform mock interviews so job seekers can be as prepared as possible. Take the time to visit Career Service in Wooded Way to see the wide range of services available there.

Applying for a job can be a stressful process, but making sure you’re prepared is the best way to avoid some of the stress. Knowing how to make use of different resources on campus is an important skill that every college student needs. But, most importantly, being confident about the skill set you have will be the most impressive asset you can take into an interview.
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From homeruns to chalk lines: baseball team does it all on the field

by Ryan Kellough
Villager staff writer

After 12 seasons of playing off campus, the Stevenson baseball team finally has a field to call their own. Located directly behind Greenspring campus, Park Field is in the middle of its third season as the home of Mustang baseball.

In its inaugural year in 2012, long-time head coach Jason Tawney was finally able to see the hard work of a decade-long search pay off with Park Field’s official opening on March 7.

After finishing with a disappointing 13-26 record in 2011, the Mustangs have since posted back-to-back 20-win seasons, finishing 21-21-2 in 2012 and 25-18 in 2013. The team is well within reach of yet another 20-win year with 13 games remaining on their schedule, currently sitting at 10-15. Since moving on campus, the team has qualified for the conference playoffs both years and appeared in one conference championship game.

The baseball program has had a long history at Stevenson, and getting a home field was a milestone accomplishment, but having a field has added another level of responsibility to the players and coaches beyond practice and play. What turns out to be hours of work to maintain the field is done entirely by the baseball team without any outside help.

Preparation begins hours before game time. Stretching, batting practice, and fielding drills all take place early in the day, and each takes work to go according to plan. Batting practice requires several screens be set up on the field to protect players from batted balls while they practice defense, and the batting cage is so large that half of the team is needed to transport it on and off the field. Tarps are laid down in front of home plate to protect the infield grass from being torn up. Rakes and chain drags are used to prepare the infield dirt. Everybody has a job and everybody contributes to make things go as smoothly as possible.

Once pre-game warm ups are complete, the team lays down chalk boundary lines, the batter’s box is drawn and home plate and the pitching rubber are given a fresh coat of white paint.

After three hours of baseball, regardless of victory or defeat, the team has to prepare the field for the next day. This involves dragging the field again, raking, wiping out the foul lines, and filling in the pitching mound with clay after a game’s worth of abuse.

Baseball is a sport that is very vulnerable to mother nature. The field can’t take in too much water or else it will become muddy. At the same time, the field can’t be too dry or it will harden. The team sprays the infield with water to soften the dirt, but also covers that same dirt with a tarp to protect it from rain. If it does rain, the tarp gets removed early in the morning, hours before even the earliest pregame routine, to allow the wind of Greenspring Valley to dry out as much water as possible.

Every inch of the field is cared for, from the outfield grass to the dirt swept off the dugout floor. Not only does the team groom the field after games and practice, but they also do the same after Park School games and practices as well. The team is most comfortable doing all the work themselves, ensuring the field is up to their standard.

Playing at Park Field is something Stevenson doesn’t take for granted, investing their time and efforts into not just maintaining it, but improving it as well. Grass base paths, a gravel warning track around home plate, several bullpen mounds and both dugouts have been built during the Mustangs’ time occupying Park Field.

For the Mustangs, it’s not just about winning games. It’s about embracing an opportunity and making the best out of what they are given. Park Field is the only on-campus baseball field Stevenson has ever had, and the program takes pride in making it look great.

Stevenson athletes serve as mentors to local elementary school

by Chris McKneely
Villager staff writer

In hopes to find college students to mentor their children, Chatsworth Elementary School sought out Stevenson University’s student athletes to devote some of their time to the children.

Kelly O’Connell, the assistant principal at Chatsworth Elementary, contacted Jill Suffel, education supervisor of Stevenson’s School of Education, in an effort to get 10 student athletes to act as big buddies to the students.

Suffel then looked to John Plevyak, the head coach of the men’s soccer team, to locate some athletes who would be willing to donate their time and energy to mentoring. Twenty-nine student athletes responded, giving their time once a week, to help these children with reading, math, and physical education skills.

The mentoring program buddied each student athlete with a very grateful and excited elementary school student. There might be a 10-year age gap, but that didn’t stop these buddies from quickly becoming the closest of friends.

Brooke Webber, a sophomore women’s ice hockey player, said, “It teaches you more than responsibility. It really shows you how to be a good sibling, because that’s how you feel when you work with these kids.”

Reid Hawkins, captain of the men’s soccer team at Stevenson, said, “I learned a lot from this experience. I did not know exactly what I was signing up for when I decided to join, an even though this program is about the kids, you learn a lot about yourself in the process.”

The program not only helped the children, but it also helped the athletes realize how much they are needed, and how they can be a positive influence on the lives of their mentees.

Plevyak said, “It’s so rewarding. These kids have emotional needs and want a hug every now and then. And for these athletes to take their time and form a bonding relationship with the children, you can really see how much it means to them.”

In addition to a mentor, the students at Chatsworth received Stevenson University t-shirts and were accompanied by their buddy to a Stevenson athletics game.

The athletes were enthusiastic about the program and though the school year is coming to an end, Hawkins said, “We don’t have to stop because school is stopping.”

Students from Chatsworth Elementary School suit up in Stevenson ice hockey gear as part of a partnership between Stevenson athletics and the school. Mentors from several SU teams lend their time and talents to mentoring the students under the direction of John Plevyak, men’s soccer coach.
Men’s lacrosse maintains dominance; rises to #3 nationally as season continues

by Colby Giacabeno
Villager staff writer

The men’s lacrosse team has continued their dominance on what is becoming another impressive season. With back-to-back wins against conference opponents Albright College and Hood College, the Mustangs are still in first place at 4-0 in the conference, tied with Widener University.

With an overall record of 11-1, the #3 nationally ranked Mustangs continue to focus on gathering as many conference wins as possible to eventually capture another regular season title.

On April 3, the Mustangs hosted Albright and came away with a 30-0 win. This shutout was the second in school history, and the first also coming from last season’s win against Albright.

Nineteen different players scored goals in the match up. Stevenson started quickly out of the gates, establishing a 10-0 lead just after the first quarter. Sophomore Callum Robinson had three causes and four ground balls. Sophomore goalie Dimitri Pecunes made seven saves. He was named Commonwealth Conference Defender of the Week previously in late March.

Stevenson seems to be finding their niche heading into the home stretch of the regular season. Since their only loss of the season to Rochester Institute of Technology on Feb. 22, the Mustangs have won 11 straight and show no signs of slowing down.

They are just four conference wins away from finishing undefeated in the MAC. In between, the Mustangs have an in-state showdown with Salisbury University.

Stevenson’s next match up will be against conference opponent Messiah College on April 23 at 7 p.m. at home. On that day, prior to the game, Stevenson will unveil “Victory,” the new bronze mascot Mustang statue adjacent to Mustang Stadium.

Track and field breaks outdoor season records

by Chris Newkirk
Villager staff writer

The final day of the Goucher Classic produced another pair of victories for the Mustangs. The team’s first outdoor meet may have been run in poor conditions but the squad ended strong.

“Overall, I have a special feeling about this team this year — this is the best team by far. We’re young with a lot of time to grow,” said Stevenson’s assistant coach Dustin Johnson.

“I recruited a ton of my football players to come out; it turned out well with standout freshmen breaking records in the 100 meters with 10.93 and 22.54 in the 200 meters. In all my years of coaching, I have never had a relay team run as fast as this early in the season — today clocking in at 43.64. The scariest part is that it was in horrible conditions and that wasn’t my #1 4x1 relay team. One thing that also impressed me was that Tevin Isley, a 230-pound linebacker, qualified for the 100-meter dash. Big man can move!”

Stevenson’s men’s 4x100 meter relay team started fast, clocking in at 43.64 beating defending conference champions Salisbury University. There was a strong rivalry that took place back in 2012 when the teams joined conferences. The two teams will see each other again during the championships in May.

On the first track meet of the outdoor season, the Mustangs had 7 qualifiers. Tevin Isley (100 meter dash and 4x100 relay); Shane Skiers (long jump; Monae Hill (100 meter dash); Deonte Williams (100 meter dash and 4x100 meter relay); Denese Samuels (100 meter dash); Sherrrie Wallace (shot put); and Christyna Falden. The team finished in fifth place out of total of 10 teams.

Freshman Devonte Williams captured the 100-meter dash title in his first outdoor collegiate season, clocking in at 10.93. Both he and a Salisbury junior clocked in at the same time, but Williams had the edge in thousandths of a second, 10.932 to 10.935.

“Overall, I think it was a good show down just a start of many to come. I’m just here to run fast and finish strong, my only thing is that I want to finish and win a conference championship for my team,” said Williams.

On the woman’s side, standout senior Monae Hill came in fourth place in the 100-meter dash, finishing at 13.77.

“I was just trying to run my race; I wasn’t trying to run anybody else’s race. I was kind of disappointed in last year’s season. The thing that I needed to work on in the off-season was my start, so in the off-season I did a lot of explosive work. That was my main focus and it turned out well. This is just the beginning and I’m looking forward to the season. Go Stang gang!” she said.

Tennis teams rally for new coach and each other

by Ashley Bukeavich
Villager staff writer

Over the past couple of years, the Stevenson University men and women’s tennis team has been experiencing difficulty adapting to three new coaches. This year, the team is confident that head coach Matt Russell is the perfect fit for the team.

“We weren’t getting the right training. There wasn’t much improvement over the years. The players need to have three things: the right attitude, a high tennis IQ, and athleticism. These are the key factors to build a team that will lead within the team and their fan base. We are a great big family who never stop cheering for any player, no matter what the score,” added Ellis.

The team also has high hopes of creating a bigger fan base and alumni community. With the help of exposure from Stevenson, the team hopes to expect a better student body percentage in the stands.

The community involvement will also open the door to create more alumni involvement and support in efforts to move forward and grow more of a recruitment base.

“Any exposure is good exposure,” said Russell.

In the future, the Mustang community can anticipate a stronger and more developed team. Every year the team expects to exceed what was accomplished the year before.

“There is no doubt that we will continue to grow stronger throughout the development of tennis fundamentals. Hobilzetz said, “We will surely be a force to be reckoned with.”

As of April 15, the team was 1-7 overall. Their next match will be home at 2 p.m. April 22 against Maryland Eastern Shore.

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Men's and women's golf feeds off success from fall to continue in spring tournaments

by John Coombe  
Villager staff writer

The golf program at Stevenson University has had great success this season. The Mustangs finished their fall season with a third place tie at Ted Keller Memorial, hosted by Randolph-Macon College. Junior Al El Kordi-Hubbard led the team with a 73 to end the day, giving him a career-best two-day score of 144 and a tie for second place. Head coach Chris Ramer said, “The season is going very well. The girls broke the school scoring record for a tournament this year. We have a young team who is working very hard to get better. We practice and play at Piney Branch Golf Club; it's about 20 minutes from campus,” said Ramer. Later this month the Mustangs will compete in the Messiah Falcon Spring Classic at Blue Ridge Country Club before they head to the MAC Championship at HERSHEY Country Club.

MAC Championships will be held April 27 at the Golden Oaks Golf Club in Fleetwood, Pennsylvania.

SU cheer travels to Daytona for NCA Collegiate Cheer Championship

by Ebi Short  
Villager staff writer

The Stevenson University competitive cheer team has had a successful year, placing first at two showcases earlier this season.

The first showcase took place at Towson University, where the all-girl Div. III team placed first at the American Extreme competition. The second showcase took place at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), where the team took first place again in the Chesapeake Championship.

“In terms of skills, we have come a long way. I love working with the team, and hopefully our hard work is reflected on the competition floor,” said sophomore Peighton Perrone.

The team includes 20 competitors who dedicate hours of practice to the sport of cheerleading. The Mustangs worked hard to prepare for the biggest competition of the season, which took place at the Peabody Auditorium and the Band Shell in Daytona Beach, Florida. Last year the team finished seventh, and they hoped to do well this year.

“We have been through so much with this team. We are all so talented and it’s great that we were able to pull off a great routine that has been the best win so far,” said senior Amberle Dunnigan.

Most recently, the team traveled to Florida to compete in the NCA Collegiate Cheer Championship. The team performed a 45-second game-day routine, along with a two-minute routine that they worked on all season.

On April 11, the Mustangs placed eighth out of eight teams in day two of finals in the All-Girl III division. The team received a few deductions which affected their placement.

Overall, the Mustangs are very happy with all of the progress they have made. Senior Danica Oak said, “It’s probably the best season we’ve had so far. I wouldn’t have any other team than this one to graduate with.”

UPCOMING GAMES

Baseball vs. Messiah --- Monday, April 21 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.
Tennis vs. Md.-East Shore --- Tuesday, April 22 at 2 p.m.
Baseball vs. Catholic --- Tuesday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m.
Softball vs. Washington (Md.) --- Wednesday, April 23 at 3:30 p.m.
Men’s lacrosse vs. Messiah --- Wednesday, April 23 at 6 p.m.
Baseball vs. Albright --- Friday, April 25 at 3:30 p.m.
Women’s lacrosse vs. Lycoming --- Saturday, April 26 at 1 p.m.

ATHLETES of the WEEK

Devonte Williams  
Freshman  
Track and field

Devonte Williams led the Mustangs with two second place finishes in the 100- and 200-meter dash. With a time of 10.98, Williams broke the school record and earned a spot in the MAC and ECAC Outdoor Championships.

Leah Warner  
Senior  
Women's lacrosse

Leah Warner gained a total of 95 career assists when the team played Lebanon Valley, surpassing the school record. She also broke the school record for points and goals in a career against Hood College.

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