Seniors prepare for new beginning

by Emma Ragon and Brittany Punte
Villager staff writers

Stevenson University seniors are counting down the days to graduation, though some may not quite be ready to end the college experience. Whatever the case, they all want to know what the plans are for graduation week.

On May 20 and 21, eligible graduate and undergraduate students will walk across the stage and receive their degrees from President Kevin J. Manning.

Traditional commencement will be held on Thursday, May 21, in the Greenspring campus gymnasium. At 10 a.m., students from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences as well as the School of Sciences will walk across the stage. Ceremonies for the Brown School of Business and Leadership, the School of Design, and the School of Education will be held at 3 p.m.

John Harbaugh, head coach of the Baltimore Ravens, will be the keynote speaker at this year’s commencement. Harbaugh, the Ravens organization, and Stevenson have a supportive relationship. The team once used the newly designed Mustang Stadium for open practices, and Harbaugh even gave a motivational speech to the men’s lacrosse team prior to their 2013 Division III National Championship win in Philadelphia.

“I am excited to hear John Harbaugh speak; I think he is a great role model in the Baltimore community,” said Tara Shriver, a senior criminal justice major.

According to Pamela Daniels, assistant registrar for graduation, almost 700 students will graduate in May.

Each graduating student will be allotted five tickets for family and friends. All guests must have a ticket prior to entering the gymnasium (this includes guests in wheelchairs as well as infants and children).

Doors will open promptly one hour before each ceremony, and seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis in chairs on the gymnasium floor as well as in the bleachers. For those who are unable to attend the ceremony, there will be a live broadcast online that can be viewed anywhere with Internet access.

Nichole Young, senior biotechnology major said, “I love that they broadcast graduation because now my family who can’t come can still watch.”

A rehearsal will be held on Friday, May 15, at 3 p.m. in the Greenspring gymnasium. This practice will last about one hour, and students do not need to bring their cap and gown. It is mandatory for all students participating in the Commencement ceremony to attend this rehearsal, according to the Registrar’s Office.

On Monday, May 18, seniors and their families are invited to attend the Baccalaureate ceremony. The Senior Class Council plans this final gathering for students that will commemorate their college years at Stevenson. Graduating students should wear their cap and gown but not the hood.

“There are no tickets for Baccalaureate, but we do ask for an RSVP. Graduates can bring as many guests as they would like. This is the perfect event for extended family who cannot attend Commencement,” said Maumi Chatterton, assistant to the vice president for student affairs.

“I will be attending Baccalaureate, and I will actually be reading a short piece with my roommate. We are really excited to participate and plan the event!” said Jen Antonelli, a member of the Senior Class Council.

For nursing students, the traditional pinning will be held on Tuesday, May 19. During this event, senior nursing students will receive their Stevenson University nursing pins. All students, their families, and friends are invited to attend. The event will begin promptly at 7 p.m. in the Greenspring campus gymnasium.

Nursing students from the School of Graduate and Professional Studies will have their pinning ceremony on Wednesday, May 20, at 4:30 p.m. in the Inscape Theatre on the Greenspring campus. All families and friends of nursing graduates may join.

Also on May 20, Commencement for students from the School of Graduate and Professional Studies (GPS) will be held. All majors attend the same ceremony that will last about two hours. This event will begin 7 p.m. in the Greenspring campus gymnasium.

Students participating in the traditional or GPS Commencement must arrive approximately 45 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the ceremony. Students should check in in Knott Hall 101.

As graduation approaches, many students are thankful for the endless possibilities Stevenson has provided. Senior business communication major Tara Shishmanian noted how “amazing” she feels to have completed her fourth year at Stevenson.

“I have obtained a great deal of knowledge and experience through the many opportunities I’ve been given at Stevenson,” she said. Shishmanian added that while she is excited to walk across the stage, the whole experience is also a bit nerve-wracking. She assumes many seniors feel that way, but they do have a lot to look forward to, she added.

Education major Danielle Fredrick said, “The education department at Stevenson was very beneficial to me. They prepare you for what teaching will be like and prepare you thoroughly for county interviews.”

For more information regarding Commencement, Baccalaureate, nursing pinning, and more, visit www.stevenson.edu/commencement. The Commencement page online includes a countdown to traditional commencement, a calendar of events, as well as the live feed for the ceremony.

BY THE NUMBERS...

538 ... number of undergraduate students graduating

1923 ... number of seats in the gym

120 ... average number of minutes for the ceremony

15,000 ... number of SU alumni
Grad week for seniors offers a variety of activities

by Alison Smith
Villager staff writer

“Grad week” is a week-long event designed for seniors to have one last hoorah before they graduate.

After finals week, the seniors can participate in various events before graduation. This week gives the graduates some time to decompress with the friends they have made during college. It’s a tradition the Senior Class Council has been organizing for the past five years.

Before grad week came to Stevenson, the Senior Class Council saw other schools enjoying a version of Grad Week, which encouraged them to bring the tradition to Stevenson. Grad Week has been a huge success ever since.

Maumi Chatterton, the assistant to the vice president of student affairs, and also the Senior Class Council advisor, has helped make the seniors’ plans become a reality.

Chatterton said, “Anything is possible for grad week, and the senior class council comes up with all of the ideas.” Chatterton added, “The Senior Class Council meets once a week starting in August to prepare for this event.”

The seniors used fundraisers including the craft festival, Pie Five, and Terri’s Café to help reduce the cost of Grad Week activities, which at this time are sold out, according to Chatterton, although spaces may become available if plans change.

The events will vary from year to year, based on what the Senior Class Council decides. However, some events are a tradition, such as Baccalaureate and the alumni happy hour.

The events for the 2015 Grad Week include two free events, two low-priced events, and two more expensive events. Events are priced to allow everyone to participate in the events regardless of cost.

The free events consist of an ice cream social that immediately follows graduation rehearsal on Friday, May 15 at 3 p.m.

The less expensive events include Movie Night, showing “Pitch Perfect 2” on Friday, May 15 at 7 p.m. off campus for $10, and the annual Alumni Happy Hour event on Wednesday, May 20 from 6-9 p.m. in Rockland Banquet for $10, and this year the Senior Class Council customized a theme of “Mardi Gras” to include food, drinks, casino games and Tarot card readings.

There are three higher-priced events, which are each $35. The pricing for all of these events are drastically discounted from the fundraising the Senior Class Council did before grad week. The first event is a trip to Kings Dominion on Saturday, May 16, from 8 a.m.-11 p.m., and includes transportation and a day pass ticket to the park.

The second event is a day trip to New York City on Sunday, May 17 from 7 a.m.-11 p.m., and includes transportation to the city and a day to explore all New York has to offer.

The last event is an Orioles home game against Seattle on Tuesday, May 19, at 3 p.m., and includes transportation, all-you-can-eat hot dogs, nachos, popcorn, peanuts, and soft drinks. All of these events have proven to be very successful in the past.

There are a few requirements to remain a resident during grad week. Seniors continuing to live on campus must attend at least one event from each category (free, low, or high priced events) or both events

Forensic excellence to become goal of new resource center

by Kaitlin Kirkwood
Villager staff writer

Thanks to Tom Coogan, the associate dean for forensic programs, the Center for Forensic Excellence is well under way. Coogan explained that the program is an outgrowth of the university’s three very successful master’s degree programs in forensics: cyber forensics, forensic science, and forensic studies.

“The Center will serve as a resource for forensic professionals by holding conferences, offering continuing professional education, conducting research, and producing scholarly publications such as forensics journals,” he explained.

The technology to understand crimes has created a science field known as forensics, a field where experts can provide crucial findings that can determine what Coogan explained as the “culpability or liability of the person on trial.”

The Center can fulfill a need in bringing together forensic educators and professionals. With the collaboration, the Center is able to identify challenges in the justice system and how to solve them through forensic technology.

An invitation-only event is planned on the Owings Mills campus for May 15, attended by Maryland criminal justice leaders including prosecutors, public defenders, law enforcement officials, and forensic experts. Coogan expects it to be an enriching experience for all those involved.

The Center will help students in a variety of ways, Coogan explained: “First, it will enhance our already well-regarded reputation with forensic employers. Second, the Center’s activities will increase our profile and help attract more students. Third, we expect to develop closer relationships with forensic educators who will be interested in teaching for us in order to also conduct research and to publish in the Center’s auspices.” His hope is that forensics students will be better prepared for the future due to the Center.

For those aspiring to enter the forensics field, Coogan advises them to “maintain the highest standards of ethics and integrity.” He explained that intelligence alone is not the key to making it in the field, but rather to have a flawless record. With a record that shows absolute credibility and accountability, students will be good candidates for career success.

This field is more important than sometimes credited in maintaining a proper working justice system. With forensics interest on the rise, the Stevenson community can look forward to the new plans that the Center for Forensic Excellence is creating for next year.

Summer workshop targets literature and creative writing

by Tyler Turk
Villager staff writer

This July for only its second year, the university will sponsor a Summer Writers’ Workshop for middle school and high school students interested in literature and creative writing.

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., rising 8th–12th graders will spend two weeks studying literature and enhancing their creative writing skills in small group workshops.

These workshops will focus on contemporary literature, poetry, fiction, non-fiction, craft, genre and publishing.

At a tuition of $400, students will receive all the supplies needed to conduct daily activities. This fee also includes attending morning workshops, field trips, crafts and games.

At the end of the workshop students will present their work publicly at a reading for family and friends.

The English department, led by Dr. Laura Smith, created the program last year and sees the initial summer as a success. Smith said, “The Summer Writer’s Workshop gives high school students all over Maryland with a similar interest in literature and creative writing the chance to meet, greet and network with each other.”

The program’s mission is to develop high school students’ general and creative literary writing skills and help them become creative problem solvers.

There is also a chance for Stevenson students to be involved and compensated. Last year one Stevenson student, Alexandria Ellis, was a paid assistant to the program’s director working with the attendees. This year the department is again looking for more help and volunteers. All English majors are welcome to be a part and help with the workshop.

Additionally, art students who can bring a very creative aspect to teaching, assisting and problem solving are welcome to sign up and participate.

Stevenson students willing to offer their time will have a chance to be a part of a panel to talk with high school students about college life and college writing.
Thank you to the faculty and staff members who take part in our Faculty & Staff Giving Campaign each year.

In just the last three years, Stevenson University faculty and staff members have given over $390,000 to educate our students and improve our campuses.

Learn more about giving or to make your gift to Stevenson University by visiting Stevenson.edu/Giving.
Gender inequalities in sports demand attention

by Chloe Redmond
Villager staff writer

“When I raise up my voice— not to I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard...we cannot succeed when half of us are held back.”

Malala Yousafzai

Women desire the same rights and privileges as men, whether they’re feminists or not, and they need a voice, as well as equal treatment. Women should realize the inequalities in female sports, empower each other, and participate in sports, which will create change for future women in the sports industry.

Being a female collegiate athlete has shaped my views, created my urge for justice, and opened my eyes to discrimination against women in sports. At a previous university I played volleyball, a season that occurred prior to men’s basketball and volleyball. At the beginning of our season, our warm-ups and practice gear were never available, and often the team would attend games in our own black sweats in order to appear unified.

However, the men’s gear was already available at the university. Everything the men needed had been pre-ordered except for their shoes, which had to be purchased after tryouts. Men’s sports were valued over the women’s sports. Those who believe in this value system say, “In order for women to receive the same media coverage, they need sponsorship. Women do not receive as much sponsorship because men’s sports are more entertaining.” Wrong.

According to ESPN, “The biggest problem men have with women’s sports [particularly basketball], is it “scary” to see women invading what has long been predominantly a male territory.” Sports interest should not be equated with gender. Realizing the inequalities in sports is the first step in creating change within media coverage of female athletes.

Women empowering other women should be the second step in creating change. The Feminist Majority Foundation believes, “Gender equity will not happen by itself; we have to work for it and speak out against discrimination. You can support women’s athletics at any age. Participate in sports yourself. Attend women’s and girls’ sporting events. Coach, athlete, and fundraiser are all roles that can build confidence and initiative, and promote women’s leadership.” Joining in the crusade does not need to involve violence, radical ideas, or other negative means. Women can help each other in a positive way by simply being the change they want. Women empowering other women is an easy, effective step that can create change in the sports industry.

The final step in advancing women in the sport industry is by playing sports. Women consistently complain about the lack of media coverage, inequalities and discrimination, but are women even playing sports? According to the Women’s Sports Foundation, “Girls’ participation in youth sport has decreased slightly from 1997 to 2008; 37% of participants in 1997 were females, compared to 34% in 2008...If a girl does not participate in sports by the time she is 10, there is only a 10% chance she will participate when she is 25.” Participating in sports is another positive step toward creating change for women in the sports industry.

Will women see a change in sports overnight? No. However, a small change is better than no growth at all. Women need to get involved in sports and ignore the ignorance that they are not as “entertaining as men.” Realizing inequalities, empowering other women, and participating in sports are steps women can take to see changes in the sports industry. It’s a process; change takes time, and women are ready to make this change a reality.

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

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Suspenseful, mysterious, and engrossing -- “The Girl on the Train” has it all

by Frankie Reynolds
Villager staff writer

“The Girl on the Train,” author Paula Hawkins’ debut thriller, is no ordinary ride on a train, but a twisting, disturbing roller coaster that leaves readers on the edge of their seats from start to finish.

The story is told from the viewpoints of three different women – Rachel Watson, Anna Watson, and Megan Hipwell. Rachel, the main protagonist, is a relatively young, divorced woman who drowners her sorrows in alcohol. She’s lost her job, but continues to take the train into London every day so that her roommate and landlord will not find out.

Rachel’s routine is rather boring – wake up, take the train, get drunk, pass out, repeat – until one morning she wakes up covered in bruises and blood. Despite her best efforts, she cannot remember what happened, and the more she tries, the harder it seems to get.

Things get more worrisome when she learns that a young woman, Megan, has disappeared, and that she was last seen near Rachel’s final stop at the train station. Rachel makes it her mission to try and remember what she saw that night, but the closer she gets to the truth, the faster she begins to unravel.

Hawkins’ debut novel is wonderfully written, with fantastic character development, a fleshed-out mystery, and an ordinary setting somehow made fascinating. Hawkins takes a frequently-used, worn-out plot and reworks it in a way that makes it feel fresh and innovative. By switching between viewpoints, Hawkins provides readers new perspectives on events as well as insights into characters that will keep them questioning what they think they know; just when the truth seems clear, the reader legacy a new bit of information that changes everything.

More than creating an interesting narrative, though, Hawkins excels at keeping the reader interested. Roughly two-thirds of the way through the novel, an educated reader can make a quality guess as to what the ending is going to be, and still Hawkins sucks them in for 100-plus more pages. She makes readers constantly second-guess themselves, no matter how clear the ending is in their mind.

Hawkins’ only issue comes in regard to dialogue, particularly at the end. There are some conversations that feel awkward, filled with phrases and expressions that normal people wouldn’t actually say. It detracts from the quality of writing and can be a bit distracting. Still, her mystic tone and fantastic ability to intertwine past and present makes up for her lack of quality character dialogues.

It’s no wonder that “The Girl on the Train” is currently the #1-selling novel in America; it’s that good. Fans of thrillers, particularly “Gone Girl,” will find the tone almost as unnerving and the story just as engrossing.

Sam Smith’s new Grammy-winning album is worth listening to

by Katlyn Lamp
Villager staff writer

Sam Smith, who was born and raised in London, is one of America’s favorite new music artists.

Smith, who was first featured in the song “Latch” by the U.K. band Disclosure in 2012, released his first album, “In the Lonely Hour,” in May 2014. “Stay with Me,” “I’m Not the Only One,” and “Lay Me Down” have been his hit singles since the release of his album in the States.

Smith won Best Pop Vocal Album, Best New Artist, Song of the Year for his single “Stay with Me,” as well as Record of the Year during the Grammy Awards in 2015.

Smith’s inspiration for his album, “In the Lonely Hour,” came from a boy he loved who did not return his love. According to TIME magazine, “In the Lonely Hour, Sam Smith’s passionate major label debut, isn’t as much about loneliness as it is about distance. In fact, it isn’t about loneliness at all; it’s about the painful, unavoidable desire for suffocating closeness fostered by unrequited love.”

Smith’s acceptance speech at the Grammy’s both surprised and entertained viewers:

“I want to thank the man who this record is about, who I fell in love with last year. Thank you so much for breaking my heart, because you got me four Grammys.”

Shane Messick, a third-year student at Stevenson University, has a strong appreciation for Smith’s music. “At first when you listen to his songs, you just notice the music and the beat, but then you start to notice the lyrics and become appreciative of how open he is with sexuality,” said Messick.

Sophomore Kaitlin Kirkwood will be attending Smith’s upcoming concert this summer.

“My huge fan of his music, especially his lyrics. I’m so excited to see what he sounds like live and how he performs all of his hits. I am also interested to see if he performs any unknown songs or if he covers any other songs,” said Kirkwood.

Some say that Smith has a calm, mesmerizing voice that pulls you in. According to the New York Daily News, some of Smith’s songs are in the top 20 of the most-streamed songs on Spotify’s sleep playlist, with “Stay with Me” being #2, “I’m Not the Only One” #5, and the acoustic version of “Latch” being #20.

Not everyone is a big fan of Smith music style. Some people report that his music is too sad or that it is too slow for them. Not all of his music is slow, though -- “Money on My Mind” and “Like I Can” are just two of Smith’s songs that have more of an upbeat pace.

If you love the album and are interested in seeing Smith perform live, he will be playing at the Merriweather Post Pavilion July 24. Merriweather is located in Columbia, Md., which is about a half-hour from Baltimore.

“Fault in Our Stars” author’s first book is an easy, engrossing read

by Kylie Handler
Villager staff writer

“Looking for Alaska” is a serene tale of childhood friendships, loss, guilt, and some pranks grand enough to rock a school to its core.


Green based the events of the novel on his experiences at Indian Springs School in Indian Springs, Alabama. The novel was inspired by the death of a girl during Green’s time at the school, who died in a similar fashion to one of the characters. Other ideas in the novel, such as the pranks, also came from his experiences there, and Green stated that the teachers in “Looking for Alaska” are direct caricatures of the teachers from his boarding school.

“Looking for Alaska” follows the lives of five students; Miles, the Colonel, Alaska, Takumi, and Lara, in attendance at Culver Creek Preparatory High School in Alabama. The five of them pull pranks and cause a lot of mischief while avoiding the dean of the school, whom they call “the Eagle.” One night, after celebrating an epic prank, Alaska gets a call from her boyfriend, Jake, and wants to leave campus to see him. Miles and the Colonel help her escape by putting fireworks on the Eagle’s porch. The next morning, all students are called to the gym where they find out Alaska was killed in a car accident.

Miles and the Colonel, consumed with guilt, attempt to unravel the mystery of whether Alaska’s death was truly an accident or suicide. In remembrance of Alaska, the rest of the group pulls off the best prank Culver Creek has ever seen in history, involving Miles’ father, a class speaker, and a stripper, before eventually focusing on more their studies.

“Looking for Alaska” is an easy read that you’ll never want to put down. If there are any problems with the book, it is that the reader never truly learns the true nature of Alaska’s death. The novel deals with suffering, loss, and grief, but also with compassion and friendship, making it a relatable and pleasurable read. It does have some controversial content, which could put off some readers, but I would highly recommend this be the next book on your summer reading list.
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Portfolio reviews to examine student design work

by Maia Milas
Villager staff writer

Portfolio reviews for art and visual communication design students will take place May 11-13.

This event is an opportunity for the students in the major to present their portfolios to part-time as well as full-time faculty members and other professionals for critique of their work. Students are unaware of their critic’s identity until their scheduled appointment time.

The review is, in fact, mandatory for students – they must have their portfolio reviewed before they are permitted to advance past their second year in the program. The event includes first-year, sophomore, and transfer students, including those who have recently switched into the major.

“The program [at Stevenson], unlike many other art programs, does not require a portfolio to get into the major,” said associate professor George Moore. “So this review process is an important step for the artists.” The review is meant to prepare the students, through constructive criticism, for when they graduate and work in their desired field.

Koenia Dobbs, a VCD major with a concentration in photography, was reviewed last year, but is also participating in the event this May. She said she had experience with “mixed” feelings: “It’s a lot to prepare for, but I’m excited to show my work from this year.”

So what consequences do students face if they receive a bad review? “If students don’t do well, they aren’t penalized,” said Moore. “The review isn’t graded. [It is purpose is to] assess their creative development… recognize that they are progressing in their work… and figure out their strengths.”

However, the review isn’t only about having good quality work in their portfolio. Moore said that the students’ ability to effectively and clearly communicate their work is also essential. Dobbs added, “[You could be the best designer in the world, but not being able to talk about your work will really hurt you in [this] industry.”

Dobbs, who transferred into the major last year, will have her second portfolio review on May 11. “It takes a lot of time and preparation,” she said. “This year I’m presenting work from seven classes. [The review is] exhausting, but valuable.” Work from her past two semesters will be reviewed, from classes including, but not limited to, typography, web design, and photojournalism.

Greenspring Orchestra plans “romantic” Mother’s Day concert

by William Murphy
Villager staff writer

The Greenspring Valley Orchestra has been intensely rehearsing for their performance in the Inscape Theatre on Sunday, May 10, at 4 p.m.

The orchestra is led by Robert Suggs, musical director, conductor, and professor of music. Featured in the concert is “Isn’t It Romantic?” referring to the Romantic period of art and culture in the late 18th to early 19th century. The music of this time period was intended to be very emotional, and most pieces are characterized by a dramatic build-up to an intense climax. Romantic musicians were also interested in bringing unexplored feelings into their art, and many compositions explored fear, anger, depression, and pretty much every other powerful emotion.

The concert’s title is intentionally misleading as the answer is no, it’s not romantic. While every piece seems to originate from the Romantic era, most of them were composed outside of the time period.

The songs chosen are meant to build around Hanson’s Symphony #2 in E flat major, Op. 73, “Romantic,” a symphony composed by a relatively unknown Romantic-era musician. The additional five pieces were written by prominent composers, both classical and modern.

The orchestra includes 55 members, most of whom are string instrumentists, who have been practicing the selected songs since pre-rehearsals in the summer. Regularly scheduled rehearsals are held for two hours on Wednesday nights starting around the beginning of the semester and the group has had about seven rehearsals prior to this performance.

Originally formed in the fall of 2002 with around 30 members, the group was considered a “chamber orchestra,” a reference to its smaller size. Since then, the orchestra has had years with over 60 members, and according to Suggs, has increased the difficulty of music chosen.

In addition to the full orchestra, the group will premier its string quartet and feature a cello soloist. The string quartet, consisting of four freshmen, will perform alongside the choral and ukulele programs, and the cello soloist, Stevenson University alumni Lauren Howes, will perform Elegie by Romantic era composer Gabrielle Fauré.

The concert is expected to last two hours. Tickets are $5 for students and seniors, $10 for general admission, and can be purchased by contacting Robert Suggs at 443-334-2433.

Drama conference in Baltimore again draws theatre scholars

by Emily Shannon
Villager staff writer

The Comparative Drama Conference, a showcase of theatre and textual performance, was held March 26-28 in Baltimore. Stevenson University hosted this year’s conference, with President Kevin J. Manning having the honor to introduce the keynote speaker and Stevenson University English professor Dr. Laura Snyder directing the event.

Abbreviated the CDC, the conference was founded in 1977 by Dr. Karelisa Harrigan at the University of Florida. Throughout the three days, the conference offers panels that discuss different topics, all related to theatre and literature. Each year the CDC invites a keynote speaker, with this year’s being a famous playwright, screenwriter, lyricist and librettist, David Lindsay-Abaire.

Snyder has been involved with the CDC ever since her last year as a graduate student. After several years, she offered the position of director, which she happily accepted. Now she is responsible for all aspects of the event, from hotel choices to session planning to choosing a keynote speaker. Stevenson joins many other universities who previously hosted this event including Ohio State, California State, Northridge and Loyola Marymount.

The festivities kicked off Thursday morning at the Pier 5 Hotel, with a choice of the first four panels. Throughout the day, sessions such as Classical Greek Theatre and Theatre in Education took place with panelists coming from McDaniel College, Loyola University of Chicago, Dickinson College and Stetson University. In the early afternoon, there was a staged reading of a one-act play, “The Mathematics of Being Human” by Michele Osherow and Malini Suri.

The last event of Thursday was a live play at the Vagabond Players Theatre. Conference attendees enjoyed a showing of one Lindsay-Abaire’s famous plays, “Rabbit Hole,” which also happened to be one of Snyder’s favorite. “Rabbit Hole” is responsible for Lindsay-Abaire’s first Pulitzer Prize, a prestigious award that recognizes outstanding theatrical work. The play also gained a Tony award for Cynthia Nixon for best performance by a leading actress in a play.

Friday included many more sessions, offering a wide range of different types of literature and analysis. However, the main event of Friday was the 2015 keynote event, A Conversation with David Lindsay-Abaire. He spoke about some of his past experiences, his roots in theatre, his future projects and then offered advice to beginning writers in the audience.

With Saturday running just as smoothly as the other two days, the conference ended on a high note. Snyder says that this year’s conference was spectacular, with a record number of attendees.

Next year’s conference will once again be held in Baltimore.
September 2014
• Stevenson University and the Greenspring Valley Orchestra hosted a ‘Star-Spangled Banner Salute’ honoring the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Baltimore and the writing of the National Anthem.
• Appointed over the summer, Aris Melissaratos, new interim dean for the School of Business and Leadership, kicked off fall semester.

May 2015
• Graduating seniors take part in various grad week activities including a trip to King’s Dominion, New York City, an Orioles game, and an alumni happy hour. Graduates-to-be will cross the stage on May 21.
• Stevenson attempted to break the Guinness World Record for the largest exercise ball class as a result of acquiring a massive number of exercise balls and needing a creative way to use them.
• The SU fashion design program featured almost 150 garments designed and constructed by students in their fourth annual show. The BSU also hosted an Allure fashion show where students who enjoy modeling helped showcase the garments of two local designers.

October 2014
• Newly introduced men’s and women’s swim teams began competing.
• Former Australian prime minister, Julia Gillard, spoke on campus.
• Athletics Hall of Fame inducted its inaugural class, including seven former athletes, one former director of physical education, and two former Villa Julie College athletic teams.
• The Event Planning class sponsored the 4K Color Run, ‘Powder to the People.’
• Homecoming week brought students, faculty, staff, friends, and family together with many events including Mustang Madness, Haunted Hallways, Mr. & Mrs. SU, crab feast, bonfire, and various sporting events.

April 2015
• The International Student Association showcased the different cultures of the world through music, dance, clothing, and food at its Taste of Cultures and Urban Vibe event.
• Relay for Life teams participated in the annual 12-hour long event. This year’s concept posed a Disney theme, and included events such as a wing-eating contest, Miss Relay pageant, water pong tournament, and the popular jail.
• The theatre presented Side by Side by Sondheim, a musical revue of songs by popular lyricist Stephen Sondheim.
• For the first time since the ‘60s, an archbishop offered Mass on campus with Roman Catholic Archbishop William Lori leading the celebration.
November 2014
• Amanda Hostalka took over position as the new interim dean of the School of Design.
• First-Year Seminar classes constructed their ideas of Career Architecture at the annual Lego Challenge.
• The third annual Hoopsville National Invitational Classic was presented by Buffalo Wild Wings in the Owings Mills gymnasium.
• Field hockey won the ECAC Mid-Atlantic Championship.

December 2014
• ‘We Are One’ fashion design exhibit showcased original fashions made by the junior-level fashion design students. The students gained inspiration from the clothing of Brazil, England, Egypt, Greece, India, Morocco, and Spain.
• Stevenson presented degrees to 249 graduates during the winter Commencement ceremony.

February 2015
• Spring Break trips allowed students, faculty, and staff to adventure to Italy and Puerto Rico to participate in study abroad programs as well as travel to New Orleans to volunteer for Mission: I’m Home.
• Comedian Gabriel Iglesias, professionally known as “Fluffy,” performed for MAP’s fourth annual LOL Stevenson comedy.
• Ten students travelled to Colorado to represent the Stevenson chapter of the American Chemical Society when they were named a “Commendable Student Chapter” for the 2013-2014 year.

March 2015
• Students celebrated the beginning of spring semester at the annual Rockland Blowout where they enjoyed Brian Rudi’s juggling school, playing Rockband, musical chairs, coloring their own t-shirts, and watching the Howl at the Moon Dueling Pianos show.
• The psychology club invited high students from several surrounding schools to participate in a local Brain Bee competition as part of the lower level of the International Brain Bee Championship.

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Takisha Toler, who has a doctorate in international business and marketing, is an assistant professor of marketing and business administration at Stevenson University. She is proof that a love for business can be learned, and an honest love for teaching can be true.

Dr. Toler considers herself a southern belle. She was born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee, and is the first in her family to attend college. At the University of Memphis, she earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration, with a focus on marketing management. Pre-med was her original intention, but once she took a market research course, Dr. Toler said, “It just clicked.”

She obtained a master’s degree from St. Louis University in business administration and earned her doctorate in international business and marketing in 2014. Dr. Toler has been teaching at Stevenson for two years. Currently, she teaches Principles of Marketing, Integrated Marketing Communication and Market Research.

Dr. Toler firmly believes in experiential learning. This out-of-the-classroom experience gives students a chance to see that what is taught in the classroom is relevant in the real world. In fall 2014 students visited R2Integrated, a digital marketing agency, and this semester students will attend the Baltimore Research facility.

Not only is she a professor, but the faculty lead for the digital marketing major. Dr. Toler is excited because she anticipates at least 10 more students will be joining the major next semester.

In the fall, Dr. Toler will be the advisor for Stevenson University’s American Marketing Association chapter for students interested in the field of marketing and advertising.

She advises students taking a marketing course to be able to think outside the box, and be creative. “There is no one correct answer,” she notes.

Mollie Meeder, a senior business communication major, said, “Dr. Toler is an extremely talented and experienced instructor with southern charm and a great sense of humor. You will definitely learn and work hard, but she is always willing to help students.”

One comment sums up her experience teaching on campus: “I really enjoy working at Stevenson University as my first full-time position because of the students. I am impressed.”

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The staff of The Villager wishes the best of luck to the graduating class of 2015.
“Never stop” -- that is the men’s and women’s tennis teams’ motto. This year, the teams played 15 matches during the split season, home and away, and ended with the men’s team going to their first Commonwealth Conference finals.

“We really benefitted from the teachings of our coach, Matt Russell,” said Conrad Ellis, a junior. “He has the knowledge and understanding of the game that I have not experienced before from any other coach in my 12 years of playing.”

The women’s team finished their season with a 3-10 record. “We switched into a more competitive division,” said Ashley Pinter, a sophomore and the team’s 2014 MVP. “We started the season out really strong, and then we played some really close matches, but just could not grasp the wins.”

Sophomore Emily Ostrander added, “We are still a pretty young team. Everyone is either a freshman or a sophomore, and I think we’ve definitely improved since last year.”

With the expansion of the Owings Mills campus, some students believe that it would be beneficial to some teams, including the tennis team, to be moved over to the new expansion with more seating for fans and spectators.

“The football and lacrosse games bring in a lot of fans to support them, but what about the other teams that are just as important?” asked Chris Ambrose, a senior sports fan. “Maybe teams would have more incentive to do better if more people came out to their games.”

The men’s and women’s tennis teams remain hopeful about their future at Stevenson University. “I believe that we still have a lot of work to do, but we started a great foundation for future season of SU tennis. We beat our previous women’s team record, and the men’s teams made it to their first conference final,” said Svetlana Widell, the only senior on the team.

Ellis added, “The camaraderie from each player has really helped in the team spirit and fighting for every match.”

The men’s team played in the Commonwealth Championship at Messiah College on May 2, falling to the top seed, Messiah College, 5-1. Stevenson’s only victory came from juniors James Bishoff and Peter Hoblit-zell, who won their No. 2 doubles match 8-3, for their 12th straight doubles win, according to gomustangsports.
Women’s lax falls to conference rival in Commonwealth play

by Lia Harris
Villager staff writer

With 11 wins and only 6 losses, the women’s lacrosse team wound down their season by moving on to the Commonwealth Conference semifinals on April 30, beating Lebanon Valley 11-6 despite lightning delays and darkened skies throughout the game. That win was followed by an eventual loss to #1-ranked Messiah College, 11-6, in the conference championship held at Messiah, which was a repeat of the 2014 game that the Mustangs won and the team’s third straight Commonwealth Conference championship.

Kathryn Merrick, senior attack, said that the team has prepared well to play Messiah in the finals. According to Merrick, it’s the first time in her four years that the new players outnumber the returning players, but she added that by the end of the season, they had found a winning combination.

In the Messiah game, ground balls proved to be one of the edges Messiah gained over the Mustangs, with 28 compared to SU’s 14. The Mustangs’ shot production was also significantly lower than the Falcons’ (31 vs. 19), and though senior goalie Leanne Byrter tied her career-high saves (13), the Falcons’ second-half scoring drive proved to be too much for the Mustangs.

Against Lebanon Valley in the semifinal, Merrick and sophomore midfielder Olivia Monteiro each had three goals, while Stevenson had a slight edge in draw controls, ground balls, and clears.

In the April 25 game against Widener College, the team won 20-5, backed by Monteiro’s five goals and one assist, and Merrick’s four goals and three assists.

To get the team focused for the game, members were assigned another player as a buddy for a week leading up to the game. With this buddy, they would have to work together to accomplish a goal within a practice or a game. As a team, Merrick says their strengths are persevering because they’re “really big on pushing through adversity and pushing through anything.”

According to gomustangsports.com, this was the third time this season and the second consecutive game in which the team has scored 20 goals. In the past five seasons, this is the 11th time they’ve done that, with almost half against Commonwealth Conference opponents.

The Mustangs had five players named to All-Commonwealth Conference teams, including Merrick, who was named the Offensive Player of the Year, and two other players landed on the first team.

Stevenson has had 16 all-conference selections in three seasons in the Commonwealth conference. Junior Carli Balford and senior Meg Gill made the first team and Monteiro was named to the second team. Bittner was named an honorable mention.

Merrick said that “putting the team first” is part of her success. Besides committing to excellence in practice and games, she will often leave anonymous quotes in teammates’ lockers to help them through the day. For Merrick, this sport has taught her that there are “always going to be obstacles and it’s how you react to those obstacles that really shows your character.”

Volleyball grabs ECAC championship after loss in conference tournament

by Kristen Brooks
Villager staff writers

The men’s volleyball team concluded their season with an Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) Championship on April 18 in a finals victory against Wentworth Institute of Technology, 3-1.

The team’s final record was 19-14 and 7-5 in Continental Volleyball Conference contests. The push toward the NCAA tournament came to an end with a 3-0 loss in the CVC championship game to Rutgers-Newark.

This season’s schedule was arguably the toughest in school’s history, containing games against nationally ranked teams, most of which the Mustangs played on the road. The team started this season ranked 14th in the American Volleyball Coach’s Association (AVCA) NCAA Division III national rankings.

A former Stevenson graduate and men’s volleyball student-athlete, head coach Steve Grossnickle called this year “the year of adversity,” but also said the season was a rewarding one. When the seniors were freshmen, Grossnickle was the second assistant coach of the team, and during the four years, Grossnickle and the four seniors have grown together.

Grossnickle said, “I’ve got a unique perspective watching the seniors grow up. They took over and led me into the head coaching role in the process.” Senior Kyle Wisner believed Grossnickle’s first year “was a learning experience and he has a lot to work with going forward.” Both the players and Grossnickle have high expectations of next year’s team.

Kyle Wisner, a senior from Central York, led the team this year with 267 kills. During the season, he reached a milestone of 1,000 career kills, becoming one of only four players to achieve this in Stevenson history. Wisner broke the record in blocks and now holds the program’s record with 410.

Senior David Moler, also from Central York, set the program’s history with 4,434 assists. Moler was the recipient of the Most Outstanding Player award during the ECAC Championship game and was named All-Conference three of his four seasons at Stevenson.

Seniors Scott Morantz and Wesley Richardson were strong contributors this season. Morantz finished the season as libero with 206 digs while Richardson completed the season with 83 kills and 38 blocks.

The men’s volleyball team advanced at the end of the season to win the Eastern College Athletic Association (ECAC) championship over Hunter College (3-0) in the semifinals and Wentworth Institute of Technology in the finals, by a 3-1 victory.

Senior Taylor Wright (87) gains draw control against a Widener University player in the April 25 victory.
Mustangs qualify for 2015 ECAC outdoor track and field championship

by Kelsey Marden
Villager staff writer

Stevenson University’s track and field team is continuing to reach new heights in their spring season. At the Morgan State Legacy meet, sophomore Devonte Williams won the 100 and 200 meter dash, earning him a spot for both in the ECAC outdoor track and field championships. Williams is currently ranked #17 in the country.

Senior Nish Patel qualified for 1500 meter in the MAC outdoor championship. He has additionally qualified for the 5000 and 10,000 meter running events. The women’s 4x100m relay team includes seniors Moner Hill, Josephine Adetunworo Christyna Falden, and freshman Destiny Watts. The team set a new school record of 50.39 seconds, earning them a spot in the ECAC outdoor championships as well.

Senior Shane Skyers took ninth place in the finals for the triple jump. He finished with a jump of 12.44 meters. Sophomore Brandon Shepherd and freshman Adam Diabagate took 10th and 11th place respectively, with leaps of 12.32 and 12.30 meters.

Freshman Brittany Appleby also set a new school record in the 1500m run with a time of 5:02.63. Junior Lane Swharnhart also set a school record in the 800m run with a time of 2:33:26 to take fourth place at the Middle Atlantic Conference Outdoor Championship. Stevenson Monica Pozuc set another school mark in the discus with a toss of 29.56 meters.

With the Morgan State Legacy meet behind them and the MAC championships in their near future, Coach Eric Camodeca has great expectations for the team.

“Our biggest thing right now since we are a young program is for everyone to get better at MAC championships; run their best times, jump their best performance, throw the furthest that they can. We are a young program is for everyone to miss out on a lot of athletes,” Camodeca said.

Camodeca believes that diversity on a team not only builds the brand of the program, but also creates new experiences for the team with athletes from different states and different lifestyles. His passion and care for track and field at Stevenson University has unmistakably spread to the members on the team.

“It’s kind of become my new love,” senior Monee Hill said. She added, “I always wanted to run track in high school, but my high school didn’t have a track team. I actually have the opportunity to run here.”

The Mustangs will compete at the ECAC Outdoor Championships starting on May 14.

Softball ends season as conference champions

by Daniel Miller
Villager staff writer

The Mustangs softball team has ended their regular season with an overall record of 18-19 and a record of 11-5 in the Commonwealth Conference. The team finished the season with 327 hits and 172 runs, with a batting average of .335 in the conference.

Head coach Joey Lye led the Mustangs to their first conference championship game in the 2013 season, when they lost to Lebanon Valley 8-1. Completing the 2013 season with an overall record of 24-25 and 8-10 in the conference, the Mustangs were also able to make it into the ECAC semifinals where they eventually lost to Alvernia 2-1.

According to junior second baseman Kait Seger, making it to the championship was the goal for the 2015 season.

“I enjoy playing the sport I love with all of my amazing teammates,” said Seger. She added, “After all we did finish as conference champs.”

The #3-seeded Mustangs dropped a game 4-0 to the #2 Widener University in the first round of the Commonwealth Conference playoffs. Stevenson is 0-2 in previous match ups this season against Widener, losing 5-4 and 6-3 in a double header.

“We have been preparing with game-like intensity and situations in practice and are able to prepare slightly differently with regard to our scouting reports since we have more information on the opposing teams,” said Lye.

The Mustangs defeated Alvernia 6-1 in the Commonwealth Semifinals and lost to Messiah in the quarterfinals.

“Although the games are extremely important you don’t want to put too much emphasis on them because everyone will be too tense and mess up,” said freshman Tiffany Kahl. She added, “We just need to relax and have fun and we will come out on top.”

SU baseball falls short in Commonwealth Conference tournament

by Lia Harris
Villager staff writer

With a record of 20-19-2 (13-8 in the MAC Commonwealth Conference), the baseball team has just about wrapped up its spring 2015 season with an 11-3 victory against Messiah College in the first round of the conference tournament on April 30.

This was the Mustangs’ third 20-season win in their history, according to go-mustangsports.com. The 16-hit victory against Messiah came against the Falcons’ strongest pitcher, as SU junior pitcher Alex Romanowski allowed just one run in seven innings.

Going into the second round of the tournament, a May 1 loss to top-seeded Alvernia College in the quarterfinals, 6-5 in 10 innings, ended the Mustangs’ hopes for a conference championship. In the loss, freshman Dan Williams pitched 6 innings, giving up 5 hits. Junior Trevor Fitzsimmons got the loss, pitching 3 2/3 innings with 4 hits. The bats of senior Brody Tennant and juniors Matt Meyers and Nick Peifer propelled the team into extra innings.

Against Widener in the double elimi-

nation semifinal, the Mustangs took an 8-6 loss in a game where their hitting finally kicked in with a strong five-run seventh inning, but the effort fell short as Widener ended the day with 17 hits and an 8-run win.

Leading up to the Mustangs’ first-round victory in the playoffs, following the Penn State-Harrisburg game, the team had claimed three straight wins.

Head coach Jason Tawney, in his 15th season at Stevenson, looks forward to next year. There have been a few challenges this season, he said, some from Mother Nature and others from through players. This spring, they have played 10 games in seven straight days, which, according to Tawney, prevents them from having time to practice skills that will make them improve. Other challenges include needing players to pitch big innings when they’re not expecting it.

However, players managed to use their depth and pitching to place them third in the conference. Looking forward, Tawney knows that each season brings not just new players but new personalities and a team with different qualities. His hope is to help prepare the team to play 40 or more games in 2016, and he perennially hopes for better weather in the spring season to prevent postponed games.
Mustangs head to 2015 NCAA DIII men’s lacrosse championship

by Alex Schoen
Villager staff writer

Head coach Paul Cantabene and the Mustangs returned this year with high expectations of repeating last season’s success. With an overall 13-4 record (6-0 in the Commonwealth Conference), Cantabene is confident his army can bring home a national win for Stevenson.

Averaging 15.41 goals per game and sporting a seven-game win streak, the Mustangs believe they are a popular contender to win the NCAA championship.

With a 8-4 win against Messiah College in the Commonwealth finals, the Mustangs are off to the NCAA national tournament as an automatic qualifier for the conference. This is Stevenson’s seventh consecutive appearance in the NCAA Division III Men’s Lacrosse Championship. It is also the team’s fourth consecutive conference championship in the last six years.

Though it would have been easy to be cavalier about the game based on the earlier season 13-1 Mustang victory, Stevenson came out ready to play.

Junior attack Stephen Banick totaled two goals and two assists while junior goalie Connor Skeen made a career-high 10 saves. Skeen was named MVP of the Commonwealth Conference Championship.

“I typically keep practices fast-paced and high tempo,” said Cantabene. He added, “Practices start with stretches then to stick work, to 4 on 4, then lastly scrimmage.”

Cantabene believes that setting high standards for his team has helped the Mustangs do well this season.

“Captains Callum Robinson, Billy Burgoyne, and Connor Curro are team leaders on and off the field,” said Cantabene.

As one of the team’s key senior players, Burgoyne has scored 27 goals and Robinson has had 83 ground balls in the 2014-15 season. Other players making an impact on the field include Banick and senior midfielder Tony Rossi. Banick has 28 goals and 29 assists in the regular season. Rossi has totaled 11 goals and 19 assists this season.

The Mustangs are preparing to face classic rivals by watching film and analyzing lengthy scouting reports. “I expect my team to know how to handle rivalry games, both mentally and physically, through preparedness and intensity,” said Cantabene.

During the week of April 13, the Mustangs were represented in the conference’s weekly awards. Juniors Matt Tompkins and goalie Connor Skeen were named the Commonwealth Conference Player and Defender of the Week, respectively.

Stevenson defeated Widener University 8-3 on April 29 in the Commonwealth Conference semifinal. This victory propelled SU into the final against Messiah College on May 2 at Mustang Stadium.

In that semifinal, Stevenson jumped ahead with a 3-0 lead. Burgoyne had three goals, one assist, and helped with two of the team’s three first-quarter goals. Skeen had seven saves for the win.

As of press time on May 6, the first round of competition was pending as the Mustangs would face off against Eastern at 7 p.m. with winners advancing to the second round on May 9. The remaining eight teams will play in the quarterfinals on May 13 and the semifinals will be held on May 17.

On May 24, finalists will advance to Philadelphia for the championship game at Lincoln Financial Stadium. The game will start at 4 p.m. and will be viewed via webstream on NCAA.com.

Golf team brings new titles to Stevenson program

by Anthony Allen
Villager staff writer

With the spring sport season coming to an end, the 2015 men’s and women’s golf teams at Stevenson have had quite a year. The men’s team finished the year second overall in the Commonwealth Conference, while the women’s team finished first overall in the Mid-Atlantic Conference Championships to give the program its first-ever conference championship title.

Leading the men’s team to their second consecutive conference second-place finish was senior Al El Kordi-Hubbard, who came in first place overall in the conference championships, giving the school its first-ever individual title in the Commonwealth Conference championships.

Senior Michael Beck also received honors of second team All-Conference for the years play.

The women’s team received high honors and several awards for their play during the season and in the championships. Freshman Morgan Wirtz came in first overall in the championship play to win three individual titles in her first year. She was also named the MAC Rookie of the Year because of her outstanding performance.

Earning second team All-Conference honors were sophomore Emily Haas and junior Alicia Greene. With the conference championship, the women’s team has earned a spot in the NCAA Division III Golf Championships, which will take place at the Mission Inn Resort & Club in Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida, May 12-15.

Along with these awards, head coach Chris Ramer won the Mid-Atlantic Conference Coach of the Year award.

At the 100 and 200 meters for the second year in a row. He was also named Middle Atlantic Conference Co-Athlete of the Year at the 2015 Outdoor Championships.

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