Theatre department brings “Sweeney Todd” to life on stage at SU

by Nicolette Stoner
Villager staff writer

The Stevenson University theatre department is putting together a new musical for the spring semester.

This year’s show will be “Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street” by Hugh Wheeler.

The plot is a grizzly one: the main character, Benjamin Barker, has been banished by a judge so that the judge could take Barker’s wife and daughter for his own. In the play, Barker has returned, disguised as a barber named Sweeney Todd, to seek revenge on the judge. As Sweeney Todd, Barker murders his customers and his partner, Mrs. Lovett, and turns them into meat pies, which then get sold to the townspeople.

Chris Roberts, program coordinator for theatre and media performance, is directing “Sweeney Todd.” Roberts’ directing credits at Stevenson include “Cabaret,” “Oh, What a Lovely War,” “Rent,” and 2013’s “Godspell.”

Jim Salvucci, dean of the school of humanities and social sciences, and Chris Crostic, technical director, chose this musical for the spring production because of its entertaining plot. Additionally, Crostic was excited to recreate the barber’s elaborate chair.

The cast consists of Stevenson students, alums, and outside community members.

Alumni Matt Seiler will play the role of Sweeney Todd/Benjamin Barker, Kelly Fuller plays the role of Mrs. Lovett, Matthew Freiswyk plays Judge Turpin, and Tania Bindhoff plays the role of Johanna Barker, Sweeney Todd’s daughter.

“I feel like the audience will enjoy it because it’s funny, it has some violence in it, and the music is crazy,” said Ashley Mil, a member of the musical ensemble.

“The whole thing is very surreal,” said Roberts of the play.

The director’s favorite song is called “Johanna,” which is about Todd’s daughter and is sung while Todd is killing his customers.

Mil’s favorite song is “God That’s Good,” which is sung while the townspeople are eating the meat pies from Mrs. Lovett’s pie shop.

There are several other songs that Mil and Roberts are looking forward to the audience hearing for the first time.

“The cast is very talented. I mean it’s a really good cast and the music is very exciting,” said Roberts.

The theatre department will perform the musical eight times in April. Opening night is April 3 at 7 p.m. at the Inscape Theatre on the Greenspring campus. The other shows will be April 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, and 12 at 7 p.m., and there will be one matinee performance on April 6 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are $10 for general admission, $6 for senior citizens, and $5 for students. Tickets can be bought at the theatre or reserved. Call the Stevenson University Box Office at (443) 334-2618 to reserve tickets.

From practicing their choreography to learning how to use a razor blade properly, students, alums, faculty, and staff have been working hard to put together the musical “Sweeney Todd,” on stage in Stevenson University’s Inscape Theatre through April.

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

In this Issue: News, page 2, Reviews, page 5, Features, page 6, Sports, page 12
Film and moving image stands on its own as a new major

by Jabrae Green
Villager staff writer

The film and moving image degree program has passed its final hurdle en route to becoming a new bachelor’s program at Stevenson University, splitting from what was formerly a longstanding program in film, video, and theatre.

The purchase of the former Shire Pharmaceutical property enabled the split of the film/video and theatre majors, offering more space to the new major on the campus that is now called Owings Mills North and is a part of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences with the new theatre and media performance major.

Students can get a better focus on career options in the field of film now that the major stands on its own. There is more room for opportunity and flexibility within the new curriculum, according to Chris Reed, department chair of film and moving image.

"With the new space on Owings Mills North for film/video, we’re able to focus more on our projects and test out our new curriculum while the theatre department has its own chance to grow and expand on the Greenspring campus," said Chelsea Clough, a junior film and moving image major.

The academic year for students in the new major will consist of general education requirements, and the career tracks will allow students the freedom to choose classes pertaining to their field of interest.

Students interested in producing movies will take classes in the producing track. Classes such as the Business of Filmmaking and Production Management would be offered in order to provide students with the necessary management and production background.

Those in the editing track will take classes such as Sound Design and Intermediate Motion Graphics. Students will learn how to edit moving images and create special effects using current and emerging editing applications.

Students can also choose to take the writing track if they are interested in writing television scripts, grant proposals or film criticism. Classes such as Advanced Screenwriting, Script Analysis, and Feature Film Writing will be available.

Capturing moving images on film or developing shot lists are some of the skills a student can learn in the cinematography track. Production Design and Experimental Cinema are two of the specific classes offered in this track.

The film and moving image major provides students with the opportunity to apply their knowledge through internships with film and video production companies, non-profit and for-profit organizations in need of media producers, and other related professions.

Students who seek a career in writing scripts, producing a film, or working behind the camera to catch the perfect shot, might find the film and moving image major a good fit.

Annual New York City trip offered students chance to view Aladdin

by Kevin McDonough
Villager staff writer

On Sunday, March 23, 2014, buses departed from Stevenson University packed with excited students and their guests headed to New York City on a one-day bus trip.

The trip, sponsored by Stevenson’s MAP, continues a longstanding annual tradition of a trip to New York City, with the option also to attend a show on Broadway.

This year, those attending had the opportunity to watch a live performance of the Disney classic, “Aladdin.” According to Jessica Bossalina, MAP programming director, the group’s choice of “Aladdin” as this year’s show to see was a “no-brainer.”

“We met a Disney representative a while back at a conference who had mentioned this show was coming up, and we instantly decided it would be a great opportunity to experience this as part of this year’s New York trip,” said Bossalina.

According to Bossalina, last year’s trip included a performance of “Spiderman” on Broadway and was well attended by students.

“We are going up just a few nights after the show first opens, and it’s going to be really exciting,” Bossalina said.

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Students who seek a career in writing scripts, producing a film, or working behind the camera to catch the perfect shot, might find the film and moving image major a good fit.
The Stevenson film and video department is organizing a film festival on the Owings Mills North campus to unite creators and viewers. Their hope is to provide an evening of entertainment for everyone while allowing the creative voices of students to be heard.

A wide variety of student-created movies will be featured at the festival including short narratives, music videos, and documentaries.

Assistant professor of film and video Dina Fiasconaro is in charge of organizing the event. Fiasconaro explained the importance of the variety of films that will be presented: “There is something for everyone to enjoy. We also strive to make the program family friendly.” This choice will give students the opportunity to attend the festival to watch the films they are interested in seeing.

This is not the first year that Stevenson is presenting a film festival. The festival has been a spring event for the past few years and has been a success each time, according to Fiasconaro. Every year sees a new theme that adds energy and excitement to the evening.

One new addition this year will be a panel of film industry judges who will not only view student-created films, but who will also be available to speak with students at the festival. The judges will create an educational experience for students pursuing film and moving image.

The film festival is open to all Stevenson students, regardless of their major or experience. Fiasconaro recalls her favorite moment from a past film festival: “The year that a freshman documentary from an introductory video class won 1st prize was special to me because it showed that telling heartfelt stories can be more important than fancy equipment or dazzling special effects.”

The spirit of the film festival is not about being the most technically experienced, but about leaving an impression in the minds of the audience that will last long after the ending credits.

The film festival will be held on April 4 from 6 - 10 p.m. in the School of Design Sound Stage on the Owings Mills North campus. A reception will begin at 6 p.m. followed by the video screenings.

Campus recreation program brings club sports to Stevenson University

After finishing homework and other assignments, students are often in search of other ways to spend their time productively. Stevenson University has designed a campus recreation program to start seven different club sports teams to help students make new friends while playing sports about which they are passionate.

The sports will include baseball, men’s and women’s basketball, men’s and women’s lacrosse, softball, and women’s volleyball.

The sports will be coached by full-time off-campus coaches who have played sports in the past and are interested in coaching a club sport. More club sports can be added to the program through student interest.

Matthew Grimm, director of club sports, stated, “We are willing to get any of these programs off the ground. The majority of teams that meet with me with an interest in starting a club sport are successful.”

For example, field hockey is planning to create a club sport because several students have expressed interest in playing a sport that they love without making as much of a commitment as a varsity sport.

Students who participate in club sports are often students who played the sport in high school, did not make the Division III squad here, or are at the skill level for an NCAA sport but just don’t have the time to commit to being an athlete. Just as often, there are students who have never played the sport before, but want to give it a try.

The club sports program is early in its development and is seeing plenty of competition. Stevenson’s club teams are opposing Division I, II, and III level schools, against some universities that treat their club teams as a varsity sport, practicing every day during the week with regular tournaments. With more students joining, this program has the potential to put Stevenson on an equal level with its competition.

Club teams meet twice a week and participate in tournaments which usually include two to three games in one day.

Any students who are interested in starting up a new club sport or would like to join an existing team should contact Grimm by campus email for further information.
NFL veterans cut due to inflated contracts

by Brent Hiken
Villager staff writer

Every year, the National Football League cuts veterans who have years left in the game. It is clear that the NFL player contracts system is broken. Players aren’t being given a fair chance to stay in the town in which they’ve been made a name for themselves because they’ve earned contracts that are too expensive for teams to pay.

The Baltimore Ravens do this more than any other team in the NFL. The past few seasons, the Ravens have cut veteran key players Todd Heap, Derrick Mason, Vontae Leach, and Kelly Gregg. The Ravens allowed Ed Reed to sign with another team, and traded Anquan Boldin. Reed and Boldin were key players in the 2013 Superbowl.

Before the 2013 season, the Ravens traded Boldin, a veteran staple to the team during the Superbowl run. That season Boldin was supposed to make $7 million playing for the Ravens. Without Boldin, the Ravens were able to draft a rookie from the University of Georgia, Marlon Brown. According to NBC Sports, Brown was given a $5,000 signing bonus and will make $1.49 million over the next three seasons. While Brown’s statistics weren’t quite what the Ravens expected from a starting receiver, Brown tied the Ravens’ previous rookie touchdown record and played a solid season for the team, providing an optimum performance without the price of Boldin’s contract.

There are many reasons faulting the NFL’s system, one being that when a veteran leaves a team and signs with another, the previous team receives a compensatory draft pick in the following NFL draft. The team is then allowed to draft a younger player who can develop his skills for less money, as opposed to an older player who requires double or triple the salary.

In order for veterans to continue to play for their teams, and teams need to reach an agreement. Players may simply need to accept less money. Earning more money may be more appealing, but if veterans love playing for a particular team, then maybe they should do so at a lower rate. However, if teams value and respect players and their performance, maybe teams should pay veterans at least part of what they deserve.

Without a solution for NFL contracts, veterans will continue to relocate to teams that can afford their contracts. While their former teams benefit financially from such a move, gaining a younger draft pick, it means that hometown staples loved by their fans must leave a town and a team they love.
“Resurrection” portrays detailed, personal story of dead coming back to life

by Frankie Reynolds
Villager staff writer

At some point in their lives, most people have lost someone with whom they were close. Sometimes people try to think of ways they could have saved the person they lost or question a higher power, praying for answers. However, most people would avoid asking what would happen if the dead came back to life.

This is the remarkably intriguing question that propels the pilot episode of ABC’s “Resurrection” toward success. After a young American boy is mysteriously found in a marshy foreign field, immigration agent, J. Martin Bellamy (Omar Epps), is called upon to bring the boy from the airport to a local adoption agency.

However, something about this boy strikes Bellamy as peculiar, and when he asks if the boy has a home, the child nods his head. Despite being ordered to transport the boy, Bellamy goes with his gut and takes the child to the place he calls home.

When they arrive, Bellamy knocks on the front door, and an elderly man answers. After a short conversation, the detective learns that this man’s son has been dead for 32 years. As the man is speaking, he loses his breath and sees the young child running towards him, screaming the word “daddy.”

“Resurrection,” based on Jason Mott’s debut novel, “The Returned,” has all of the requirements to eventually become a first-class television drama. It keeps viewers guessing, connects with its audience on an emotional level, and showcases a character-driven story rather than one focusing strictly on the plot.

This television show is not without flaws. Sometimes “Resurrection” tries a bit too hard to connect with viewers by concentrating for lengthy periods of time on how the characters feel. This results in scenes that would have felt more polished had they been a few minutes shorter. This is a scripting problem that can be easily fixed, but it still remains an issue.

If there is one truly concerning element of “Resurrection,” it is that of the actual plot, which, although it is very interesting and compelling, moves very slowly.

This is acceptable for a developmental episode like a pilot and may be forgiven by viewers after witnessing the vibrant and unique directing style of Charles McDougall. Over time, however, the lack of action may prove unfavorable as “Resurrection” is competing with popular shows such as “The Good Wife” and “The Walking Dead.”

With an impressive 13 million viewers, “Resurrection” isn’t going anywhere anytime soon. Despite a sluggish plot and overwhelming focus on the characters’ feelings, this is an interesting show with a lot of potential.

If the creators can fine-tune a few of the pilot’s glaring issues, viewers could be watching the hit-drama series that ABC has been looking for. If “Resurrection” can manage to improve upon its flaws, then this may end up being the next popular series.

Walters Art Museum provides history and adventure

by Rosalie Chesley
Villager staff writer

The Walters Art Museum in Baltimore offers a broad collection of art exhibits with a massive historical range. The museum offers free admission to its permanent exhibitions, and art enthusiasts or casual visitors can enjoy a full day in this pleasant, welcoming venue.

The second floor features the two-story Sculpture Court, enhanced with natural daylight from a frosted skylight. This venue hosts a variety of outside events, including performances by students from Baltimore’s Peabody Conservatory.

European exhibits from the 18th and 19th centuries frame the Sculpture Court and include European porcelain, arms and armor, a treasury of jewelry, and one of the United States’ finest collections of French 18th century art. The Chamber of Wonders includes an unusual collection of nature specimens, including a large snakeskin, animal heads, and a small exhibit of well-preserved butterflies, beetles and other insects.

The second floor also includes the Ancient Near East, Egyptian, and Greek and Roman exhibits. The Egyptian exhibit is extensive and features an intact mummy. The Greek and Roman rooms showcase a wide variety of pottery and sculpture and a collection of intricate sarcophagi. The third floor has a balcony leading to the Sculpture Court. Renaissance and baroque exhibits from the 13th to the 18th century surround the balcony.

This chronological series of Italian, French, and Spanish art reflects the heavy religious influence during the renaissance era.

This floor features the museum’s collection of medieval art, including items from Scandinavia and Northern Europe, Islamic culture, and the Byzantine Era. A diverse array of medieval religious icons occupies the center of the exhibit. The Manuscripts Gallery currently houses “Bookbinding from the Golden Age,” a Smith special exhibit. This collection includes elaborate illustrated books from China, France, and England. The museum also features a selection of Asian art drawn from Chinese, Japanese, and Buddhist cultures in an adjacent row home.


The museum also frequently hosts temporary exhibitions. The first floor offers an auditorium, lounge and gift shop, and the lower level features the Family Art Center, transforming the Walters Art Gallery into a family destination.

Although the museum features many different exhibits, it is easy to navigate, and each exhibit makes visitors feel as if they are on an adventure. It is a great art experience for people of all ages, regardless of their experience with art.

“Dirty Wars” supplies readers with insight on war

by Justin Trunko
Villager staff writer

New York Times bestselling author Jeremy Scahill’s new book exposes the dark secrets of the American covert wars. In “Dirty Wars: The World is a Battlefield,” Scahill examines the foreign policies of the “war on terror” and depicts the involvement of American covert forces in the Middle East.

The book marks the beginning of the war, nine months after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. At the time, the United States was filled with anger and fear, and the country demanded retribution for the attacks.

Congress also granted President George Bush and his administration unparalleled powers to find and bring these terrorists to justice. The combination of these conditions would bring the war and the covert operations in the Middle East into full force.

Although a significant amount of time has passed, Scahill is adamant that the covert forces that were started during the Bush administration have only expanded and become more powerful under President Obama’s administration.

The book reveals the most powerful covert unit in the war on terror known as Joint Special Operations Command.

This military unit comprised of the best soldiers from the Navy Seals, Delta Force, and private security contractors. This military unit operates on a budget and does not follow the traditional form of command but answers only to the President.

The unit is responsible for targeting killings, night raids, drone attacks, secret prisons, and missile attacks in over 100 countries worldwide.

“Dirty Wars” investigates the consequences that result when these covert units are not accountable for their operations. The author uses powerful first-hand accounts in order to depict the consequences that come with failed operations. In one account, he investigates a failed raid in eastern Afghanistan during which an Afghan police officer and three pregnant women were accidentally killed.

Scahill also highlights the targeted assassination and drone strike of an American cleric, Anwar al Awlaki. The book portrays these failed attempts to eliminate terrorists as counter-intuitive.

“Dirty Wars” challenges the conventional ideology of the war, and Scahill’s investigative journalism sees through the common media outlets and tells the stories of victims. I recommend this book because it gives a detailed and enlightened insight on the covert forces and policies of the war on terror. Scahill’s other works are also good reads as they are insightful and well-written.
Students travel the world during spring break to facilitate

Business communication students travel to two cities while in Ireland

by Marilyn Lovo
Villager staff writer

Business communication students embarked on a journey of a lifetime, sponsored by the department, traveling to Ireland March 8-15.

After a seven-hour flight, students, along with department chair Chip Rouse and adjunct instructor Whitney Schulitz, arrived at Dublin Airport where they traveled to Galway City and settled in at Jury’s Inn.

The island in the Atlantic off the northwestern coast of Europe offered students a sight of its legendary coastline, castle-topped hills, and rich literary history. Accompanied by a private guide, students explored Galway City and other notable destinations, including Cong famous ra, Croke Park, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, and the Guinness Storehouse, and the Merry Ploughboys Pub for a three-course dinner and Irish entertainment.

Students visited the American College in Dublin, housed in the buildings Oscar Wilde once called home, for a tour and lecture. They also visited Trinity College, where students saw one of Ireland’s literacy treasures, the Book of Kells, a Gospel manuscript filled with Celtic designs. In addition, students visited National University of Ireland in Galway for a presentation by the marketing department and tour. Students also had a bit of free time to explore other sites on their own.

“"This was such an excellent opportunity, not only to travel, but to learn about another culture,” said junior Alyssa Yuan.

“I was most excited to visit Connemara. I heard it was breathtakingly beautiful. I was also excited to visit the college campuses to see how they compare to our own.”

For first-time flyers, the opportunity to travel to another country proved to be invaluable, especially for those sharing Irish heritage.

“My ancestors are primarily from County Cork in Ireland, so I was curious to learn more not only about my family, but the people,” said junior Alexandra Nelson.

Before visiting Ireland, students met once a week on Tuesdays for a course in advanced intercultural communication taught by Rouse and associate professor Dr. Leeanne Bell McManus. The course required students to identify the importance of verbal and nonverbal communication in a multicultural context. Students had to apply their knowledge through papers, presentations, and journals before, during, and after the trip.

“I’m glad the course was offered along with the trip,” said senior Francesca Ullen. “It taught me to be aware of cultural differences and learn to accept them.”

Students also met with Greg Mulligan, the general manager of the O’Callaghan hotel in which the group stayed in Dublin, the Mont Clare. He spoke to the students about the hospitality industry in Ireland as well as future plans for the hotel chain.

Besides the experience of traveling abroad and putting their communication theories into practice, students were able to make new relationships.

“Students returned energized, engaged, and connected with their peers... it allowed them to see [their professors], as more than just their teachers,” said Schultz. “Learning alongside them bonded us together.”

The department is already in the midst of planning the 2015 trip, this time to Puerto Rico. Students in the major interested in traveling abroad may contact Rouse for information on future trips.

One-credit opportunity course allows students to experience Berlin

by LaShawna Williams
Villager staff writer

Stevenson University students were able to travel abroad this year to Berlin, Germany, in a one-credit opportunity course.

English professor Laura Smith, and art professor Lori Rubeling, along with 10 students in majors including English, biology, criminal justice, and art, jet for a nine-day trip to Berlin Friday, March 7 and returned Sunday, March 16. To travel to Berlin, students flew for nine hours, had a two-hour layover, and traveled again to reach their destination.

During the trip, the group visited historical landmarks including Reich Stag, Checkpoint Charlie, Berlin Wall, Brandenburg Tor, the Brandenburg Gate, historic Mitte, Bauhaus Library, and toured three Berlin neighborhoods.

The group stayed in a hostel called the Sunshine House which had two-person rooms and a shared bathroom.

To receive the one credit (called OCO 304), students were enrolled or had completed the following spring 2014 courses: ART 305 (Topics in Art History), HON 214 (City as Text), or ENG 224 (Introduction to Creative Writing). The students must also produce a final project consisting of drawings, travel writing, film, or design models.

The trip, originally planned by Rubeling for art students, took two years of preparation.

“Study abroad is an exciting way to learn knowledge of art and design and a city tells a story,” said Rubeling.

Each student had the chance to brainstorm and collaborate with others as well as the professors to complete the final project by attending workshops. Dr. This opportunity to feed off one another’s creativity gives students the best of both worlds,” said Kaitlin Foarde, an English major.

Outside of workshops and project preparation, students were given 36 hours of free time to travel, shop, or explore Berlin. The picture above to the right is of Check Point Charlie, Berlin, 304 OCO.

“I went to dinner with my boyfriend’s family in Berlin,” said Maegan Jones, an English major.

Students adapted well to Berlin culture; a majority of students speak German or are of German descent.

The idea of traveling abroad to Berlin is nothing new to Rubeling. She traveled there with students in 2007; however, Laura Smith, the other faculty chaperone, had never been to Berlin. In fact, it has been more than 15 years since members of the English department sponsored a study abroad trip.

“We are small and you need at least 10 people to sign up to go,” said Smith.

The attendees of the trip plan to have a wrap-up presentation of their final projects, but the date for the event is uncertain at this point.
Photography students capture the essence of culture in Eastern Europe

by Ebi Short
Villager staff writer

Stevenson University's photography department celebrated its fifth consecutive year participating in the study abroad program, with 22 members traveling to Eastern Europe. The students traveled to four different cities within 12 days: Budapest, Prague, Krakow, and Vienna.

“This is the fifth consecutive photography study abroad trip,” said Carol Cornwell, an adjunct photography instructor at Stevenson University. “We have been to Italy, France, Spain, Japan, and now Eastern Europe.”

In addition to Cornwell, Jefferson Steele, another adjunct photography instructor at Stevenson University, created an upper division photography course, Photo 480, which was designed as a short-term study abroad class. Students will take the images from their trip to produce their own portfolio and participate in a group show in the spring of 2015, said Steele.

During spring break, 69 participants, including students, faculty and staff from Stevenson, traveled to St. Bernard's Parish in New Orleans to rebuild homes for the over 10,000 families that are still residing in temporary homes.

The team traveled on Saturday to New Orleans and was embraced by Loyola University New Orleans with a dinner where the groups were able to get to know one another. On their tourist day, the group toured New Orleans, visiting the 9th Ward where the levees broke, learning about Brad Pitt’s campaign (Make It Right NOLA) which rebuilds homes, and visited the Louisiana State Museum, specifically the Hurricane Katrina Exhibit.

The participants traveled to different job sites with St. Bernard's Project, working on rehabilitating damaged houses for five days through a variety of manual labor activities including assembling dry wall, flooring, painting and more. Spending eight hours working daily, the team profited from their time working together while learning leadership and teamwork skills.

The last day of their trip concluded with a traditional New Orleans Crawfish Boil, where the group invited all of the community partners and any homeowners that they met throughout the week.

Mission: I'm Home's objective for spring break was to embrace the culture of New Orleans, while assisting the communities in remodeling their homes. However, the group didn’t know how the experience would impact those involved.

“Mission: I'm Home had such a great impact on my spring break,” said Annie McCouch, a second-year volunteer. “While others are at home relaxing or away on vacation, we spent our time in New Orleans working on houses. It is definitely hard work and tiring, but the joy that comes from the result is like none other. Spending a week in New Orleans and seeing the damage that is still prevalent makes me appreciate the fact that I have a roof over my head, food to eat, and people that care about me.”

Led by Morgan Sommerville, the organization hopes other Stevenson students and staff will get involved. For more information about the annual trip, please contact Morgan Sommerville through campus email.
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Spotted July 30, 2013

Stevenson University

2014 Men’s Lacrosse Home Schedule

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<td>Wed, Apr. 16</td>
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<tr>
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*Commonwealth Conference game

For tickets or more information, visit GOMUSTANGSPORTS.COM

2014 Women’s Lacrosse Home Schedule

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LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
As students move away from home to go to college or to begin a job, their interest in buying or leasing a car increases. However, deciding whether to buy or lease may be one of the most difficult choices, partly because students have no training in this area, and partly because they may be more concerned about the type of car they plan to buy. Although both decisions can be overwhelming, essential information is available to help them make this decision.

“When tackling student loans and other financial obligations, experts say it’s important for young adults to weigh out all of their options when looking to either lease or purchase a car,” says Emily Driscoll of FOX Business. Essentially, leasing a vehicle means renting it. You are making monthly payments just as a renter would for, say, an apartment. You agree to make the installments on time with interest. In contrast, when you choose to purchase, the car is yours, and you can do what you like with it.

Leasing a vehicle is typically less expensive than purchasing one. However, when you choose to buy a car, you can also choose to finance it if you cannot pay for the vehicle outright; but financing a leased car can get confusing. When you lease, your monthly payments are applied to the depreciation and use of the vehicle. At the end of the lease term, you can either return the vehicle or purchase it from the lessor. On the other hand, when financing a car, you make monthly payments, usually for 48 to 72 months, until the car is paid off. Once this occurs, the car is completely yours.

Those who like to drive a new car every few years simply find a lease more appealing, and since the monthly payments are usually less than those connected to purchasing a car, lessees are usually able to drive nicer cars than they could afford to buy outright, says Phillip Reed, a consumer advice editor at Edmunds, an auto analyst resource.

Leasing payments for the same vehicle are lower than financing payments. However, this is offset by all of the hidden fees that come with leasing.

“The largest hidden cost occurs when a leaseholder drives more miles than the contract allows,” says Clari Nolet, a California financial advisor. Nolet adds that typically you must stay within 20,000 to 40,000 miles, or you start to accumulate charges at 20¢/mile or more, and when your lease is up, you have to come up with the cash for a new down payment.

Furthermore, if you’re driving the car a lot, it’s hard to avoid normal wear and tear. Any of this damage, along with scratches or dings, adds to the bill, and this doesn’t even account for the possibility of a collision or fender bender. In such an instance, consider Guaranteed Auto Protection (GAP) Insurance, which covers the amount you still owe on the lease if an accident occurs.

Driscoll concludes by saying that students and graduates need to understand what they can realistically afford and decide accordingly. Finally, consider how long you want to be driving the car and what costs your budget will be able to manage. Then you will be able to make an informed choice.
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**Men’s lacrosse advances in 2014 season with hope of winning championship**

*by Anthony Arcell*

Villager staff writer

The men’s lacrosse team took on three games during Stevenson’s spring break, and didn’t let the lack of student population affect their concentration. Instead, they focused that energy towards their opponents and went 3-0 while students were enjoying the time off.

Stevenson upset #3-ranked Tufts in a 15-9 win on March 18, Junior midfielder Tony Rossi, junior attack/midfielder Colin Dabney and senior attack Glen Tompkins all posted career-highs in points while sophomore goalie Dimitri Pecunes totaled a career-high 16 saves.

On March 8, the Mustangs traveled to Gene L. Shirk Stadium to take on the Albright Lions in a tough 12-8 victory for the conference opener. The Mustangs improved their conference opener record to 13-0, with 10 of those wins being under head coach Paul Cantabene.

The Mustangs were held scoreless in the first quarter and the last time that happened in the first quarter was on April 20, 2013, in a game against Widener University. There were 35 shots and a career-high 16 saves.

Dabney and senior attack Glen Tompkins scored a 15-9 win on March 18. Junior midfielder Harrison Hiken found a total of nine saves and was recently named the MAC Defensive Player of the Week for his previous performance against rival Rochester Institute of Technology.

Rossi scored a total of five points against the Blue Jays, Hiken won 15 out of 18 face-offs, and defensive senior Kyle Holzeck forced four turnovers.

“People know now what is expected of them and are learning their role on the team... that’s the biggest part of coming together as a team,” said Rossi.

On March 3, the Mustangs were voted the MAC championship title in 2014. Stevenson went undefeated (8-0) in their inaugural season in the MAC last year and are expected repeat this year with 64 total points and nine first place votes.

“We want to make a point that we are a top team in this conference and we want the championship title again this year,” said Hiken.

**Men’s golf prepares for spring**

*by Mark Panneton*

Villager staff writer

After a successful fall, the Stevenson University golf team is geared up and ready to begin their spring season.

Starting March 28, the team will compete in the Intercollegiate Golf Championship at Camp Lejeune.

“Camp Lejeune is a three-day, 54-hole golf tournament with the top 31 teams in the nation. Not only is it our first tournament of this spring, but it is the biggest tournament we will see before the MAC Championships and nationals,” said head coach Chris Ramer.

Senior Ben Lukehart had similar thoughts about Camp Lejeune and its importance for this season.

“Camp Lejeune will be our first tournament of the spring schedule and probably the best one besides conferences or nationals. The best teams from around the nation will be there and it will be good to have our games tested early in the season so we can see what we have to work on in order to reach our goal of winning conferences or the season,” said Lukehart.

He added, “I’m just looking forward to being back on the course with the boys every day. We have really good team chemistry and we all push one another to do better.”

With the winter Baltimore has had this year, the team expects that the courses in the area are far from their usual condition and the players have not been able to play as much as they’d like.

“We had a good fall season in order to build up to the upcoming spring season but the weather hasn’t been cooperating at the moment,” said Lukehart. However, this obstacle is not stopping the Mustangs.

Looking ahead to the season, the Mustangs return four of last year’s top five golfers and are eager to make a strong presence this spring.

Each player has set an individual goal and has an expectation for what the team should accomplish this season.

When asked about his personal goals, Junior Will Ellis said, “I want to make it back to nationals and try to have a scoring average of below 78.”

He added, “For the team, we want to make it back to nationals and get at least a top 3 finish in every tournament we play.”

Ramer’s comment about his goal for this year’s season was put much simpler, “Go to nationals!”

The team will host its home tournament at Piney Branch Golf Club in Upperco, Maryland, beginning on April 5.

**Women’s golf returns from Florida energized with assertive attitude**

*by Chris Ledgerwood*

Villager staff writer

The women’s lacrosse team started the season off on a bumpy road, losing four of their first five games. However, spending spring break in sunny Clermont, Florida, changed that for the better.

“We’re over-thinking things and some minor mistakes are leading to some major consequences,” said Railey. She also pointed out that if one were to look only at the statistics and not the scoresheet, the team’s current record is surprising.

Senior midfield Marissa Meiklejohn said, “I want to be a part of the best team we’ve had to date. I want to leave these girls on a high note but also with something they can use for teams to follow this one. Play like it’s the last time you’ll touch this field, each time with no regrets.”

Meiklejohn hopes that the goals set for this year can continue through the program once she has graduated.

Junior goalie Leanne Bittner was named Commonwealth Conference Defender of the Week on March 17. She is the second Mustang to earn player of the week this season; Merrick was named Commonwealth Conference Player of the Week on March 3, in her first career honor.

The team will have their next conference match against Albright College on March 29 at Stevenson at 1 p.m.
SU runners finish strong at MAC Indoor Track and Field Championship

by Anthony Arcell
Villager staff writer

The Mustangs ended the indoor season on a strong note, bringing home several awards from the MAC Indoor Track and Field Championship on March 1, and the ECAC Championships on March 8.

Freshman Devonte Williams arrived at the MAC Championships with something to prove. He competed in three different events: 400m dash, 200m dash, and 4x200m relay. In all three races he was second place overall in the 60m dash. "This was my best time of 6.64 seconds," said Williams.

Due to Williams’ outstanding performance at the MAC Championship, he was named MAC Rookie of the Year for indoor track and field. Additionally, he was given a bid to the ECAC Indoor Track and Field Championship.

The men’s 4x200 team included freshmen Williams and Nathan Niederhofer, and seniors Dalonte Simpson and Shane Skyers. Overall, the relay team finished seventh, with a time of 1:32:27, which earned them a spot in the ECAC Indoor Championship.

The Mustangs will be back on the track again for the outdoor season opener on March 29 at the Goucher Classic.

UPCOMING GAMES

Tennis vs. Md. East. Shore --- Tuesday, March 25 at 2 p.m.
Track and Field vs. Eagle Twilight --- Wednesday, March 26 at 3 p.m.
Men’s golf, Intercollegiate Golf Championship, Friday, March 28 at noon
Baseball vs. Lebanon Valley --- Friday, March 28 at 3:30 p.m.
Men’s volleyball vs. Eastern Mennonite --- Friday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m.
Women’s lacrosse vs. Albright --- Saturday, March 29 at 1:00 p.m.
Baseball vs. Lebanon Valley --- Saturday, March 29 at 4 p.m.
Men’s lacrosse vs. Lynchburg --- Saturday, March 29 at 4 p.m.
Men’s volleyball vs. Marymount (VA) --- Saturday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m.
Tennis vs. Virginia St. --- Friday, April 4 at 2:00 p.m.
Baseball vs. Widener --- Friday, April 4 at 3:30 p.m.

The women concluded their season on a positive note as well; they did not go unrepresented at the MAC Championship. Sophomore Sherrie Wallace placed 14th overall in the shot put with a throw of 9.77m. Junior Monee Hill also earned 12th place overall in the 60m dash. "This was her season best time of 7.18," said Williams.

On March 8 the Mustangs headed to Boston for the ECAC Championships. Once again Stevenson came out strong. Williams took first place in the 200m dash, with a career best time of 21.85 seconds. He was the only runner to finish under 22 seconds. Williams also came in fourth in the 400m dash with a career-best time of 49.38.

“I have had to work hard and stay determined. I want to win a national championship and become an All-American,” said Williams.

The 4x200m relay team also placed in the ECAC Championships. The team included Niederhofer, Simpson, Skyers and freshman Taylor Getz. They finished 35th overall with a time of 1:28:01.

Niederhofer said, “This was just a jump start. We ran well and competed all season. We still have the spring season.”

The Mustangs will be back on the track again for the outdoor season opener on March 29 at the Goucher Classic.

Men’s and women’s tennis optimistic about 2014 season

by Luciana Diaz
Villager staff writer

Stevenson University’s tennis teams are gearing up for the 2014 spring season. Men and women’s tennis believe they have a bright future ahead of them, with last year’s season ending in the MAC semi-finals.

Coach Matt Russell eagerly stepped in during the middle of the season last year ready to guide the team. It showed on the court as the Mustangs continued to grow.

In Russell’s first full season with the Mustangs, he is hoping that this year they will make it to the MAC finals.

Senior Jordan Rupard said, “Coach Russell puts a lot of time and effort to make us better athletes and individuals on and off the courts. We have the utmost respect for him.”

In addition to their returners the team has some new players. The Mustangs are training twice a week and practicing indoors until weather conditions improve. Overall, the team believes that they are emotionally and physically prepared for upcoming matches.

Due to inclement weather, the first match of the season was canceled. This season’s schedule contains 13 total matches, starting out with King’s College as their first conference game. After an upsetting loss to King’s College last year, Stevenson is ready for revenge.

The Mustangs’ main competitor this year will be Wilkes College, to whom Stevenson fell in the conference semi-finals last season.

The team’s most recent game was on March 9 at Goucher College. The women’s team ended with a 5-4 win, although two of Goucher’s wins were by default. The women’s team had four singles wins and one doubles win, with three of the singles matches going to three sets. Freshman Ashley Pinter in singles won in two straight sets with 6-4 and 6-4 victories.

The men’s team had two singles wins and one doubles win, but this was not enough to earn a win as a team. Conrand Ellis and Anthony Carle both won their singles matches, pulling out a win in the last two sets of the match. The men’s doubles team included sophomore Robbie Baker and junior James Bishoff. Together they defeated Goucher 8-6.

This year the tennis team is well prepared with a positive mindset and motivation from their coach. The next match is April 4 at 2 p.m. at the Greenbriar tennis courts behind Knott Hall.

Sports Athletes of the Week

Devonte Williams
Freshman
Track and Field

Devonte Williams became the first student-athlete in program history to win an individual championship. He finished first in the 200 meter dash at the 2014 ECAC Division III Indoor Track and Field Championship.

Sara Welch
Freshman
Softball

Sara Welch wear 4-4 with seven RBI’s against Franciscan University on March 13. The Mustangs run-ruled Franciscan in five innings 22-0.

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