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Eager freshmen milled campus for a measly 12 days before their phones pinged with the alert from President Alger that JMU would temporarily transition to online instruction. In that timespan, 206 students tested positive at the University Health Center (UHC), and 410 students self-reported positive results.

Jordan Bernard, a junior intelligence analysis major, lived out of a suitcase when he arrived at JMU. He said he knew students wouldn’t be allowed to remain on campus long.

"I honestly thought we’d last longer," Bernard said. "I mean, five days of classes — I thought we’d at least hit two weeks.

Students who lived on campus returned home wondering when they’d again stroll the Quad. JMU will officially answer that question by Sept. 25, but Director of Communications and University Spokeswoman Caitlyn Read said "students should plan to return to some level of in-person instruction on October 5."

"We feel very confident at this point that we can do it safely based on the developments we’ve made in the last week and a half and will continue to make," Read said. "But we aren’t going to compromise the health of the greater community."

Read said JMU has faced a whirlwind of procedural changes to ensure the students' return won’t turn out the same as in August. The university is launching a Stop the Spread hotline to answer questions the JMU community has regarding COVID-19. Additionally, Read said JMU is exploring ways to fortify areas with the most need on campus — like UHC — by either reallocating staff or bringing in new personnel.

To deter crammed dining halls, JMU dining is extending its hours to accommodate class period changes and expanding its grab-and-go options for meal plan holders.

After several images of overflowing classrooms went viral on social media, JMU began investigating the causes of these instances and found student compliance was the root cause in some cases. Read said students were attending split hybrid classes in person on days their professor scheduled them to be online.

The student who posted a video of students littering the ground of a classroom, freshman computer science major Jacob Seefried, said he captured the video on the first day of class. Seefried said his professor said on the second day of class that he didn’t predict the large in-person attendance and couldn’t detect the hotchpotch of students strewn on the floor from his position at the front of the class.

"I don’t think it was an issue of student compliance but an issue of just offering an in-person option to too many people," Seefried said.

Another priority adjustment to pandemic operations is shoring up additional quarantine and isolation spaces. As of Wednesday morning, 66 beds were available to house infected students. Read said JMU will partner with hotels to bolster its isolation capacity.

Read said the associated costs of these changes are "significant and severe." The estimated cost for cleaning equipment like hand sanitizer and masks for employees alone is $700,000, but Read said that number is "outdated" and costs now far exceed that. An updated figure won’t be available until the university conducts an analysis of the overall financial impact.

The university is basing its decision on the case count on campus, the positivity rate on campus and how the virus has trickled out into the Harrisonburg community, Read said.

According to The Breeze’s COVID-19 dashboard on Wednesday morning, JMU has logged 307 active cases and 1,062 recovered cases. Students and employees are counted as recovered 10 days after they’re tested. The positivity rate of tests conducted at UHC since Aug. 17 is 31.94%, though Read said this is because UHC only tests symptomatic individuals.
Read said JMU has no target number of cases or positivity rate it’s aiming to hit before issuing students the OK to return, but it’s paying special attention to the number of faculty members who test positive. Read said employees are the focus because they may be more vulnerable to the repercussions of the virus. Ten employees have self-reported a positive test since Aug. 24.

Although the number of active COVID-19 cases in Harrisonburg jumped from four before JMU returned Aug. 21 to 2,293 cases as of Sept. 16, Read said “we’re in really good shape” in terms of local hospital infrastructure. Read said Sentara RMH reported maintaining sufficient medical supplies and bed capacity to care for patients.

“It’s probably a little too early to tell if cases are transmitting from the JMU population,” Read said. “We unfortunately expected the uptick in cases. I think it spread faster than we anticipated, and because we care about the community, that’s why we made this transition.”

Caitlyn Read
JMU spokesperson and director of communications

“...We unfortunately expected the uptick in cases. I think it spread faster than we anticipated, and because we care about the community, that’s why we made this transition.”

Read said JMU is “in lock step” with Mayor Deanna Reed and city emergency planners. Read said an illustration of their partnership is Vice President for Student Affairs Tim Miller’s ride alongs with police to bust parties. Another example Read provided is Harrisonburg’s ordinance declaring 50-person gatherings illegal, however, when the Harrisonburg Police Department disperses a party with over 10 JMU students, they take names and slip the information to the university.

Michael Parks, Harrisonburg’s director of communications, said in addition to being in contact with JMU daily, the city is investigating additional ways to mitigate the spread of the virus, including developing a way to communicate directly with students. Parks said the number of cases and how rapidly they popped up is “alarming but not unexpected.”

“It would’ve been a miracle not to see a spike in cases,” Parks said. “We nearly doubled the size of the population of Harrisonburg.”

Although Read said she’s “confident” in JMU’s ability to reintroduce students on campus, Bernard said he “highly doubt[s]” students will be invited to return in October.

He said he expected the university to monitor students’ daily check-ins on the LiveSafe app more rigorously — perhaps by requiring students to flash their green check denoting their lack of symptoms before entering classrooms and dining halls — but Bernard said he experienced no repercussions for forgetting to conduct a daily check-in. He said he also navigated swarming dining halls and witnessed other students inappropriately wearing their masks.

“I prefer in-person classes,” Bernard said. “But I’m fully prepared for the email on September 25th that says, ‘Unfortunately, students, we cannot come back. We’ll try again in the spring.”

Bernard said he thinks JMU should assign students dining times to cut down congestion and require entry testing before students return to campus — something JMU has expressed it won’t do, citing CDC recommendations.

Parks’ advice for students if they return is to stay home because “you’re safer in your pod.”

“Every single person has to do their part,” Parks said. “...Just one person not doing that can contribute to the spread ... but we can’t force people to care about the well-being of this community.”

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The university isn’t aiming for a target number of student cases that’ll determine if students are OK to return.

JMU has logged 307 active cases and 1,062 recovered cases. Photos by Tristan Lorei / The Breeze
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Rockingham County Public Schools provide free meals for students

By SYDNEY DUDLEY
contributes writer

On Sept. 3, Rockingham County Public Schools (RCPS) announced it would provide current K-12 students and children under 18 with free meals beginning Thursday, Sept. 10. Students enrolled in high school who are over the age of 18 are still eligible to receive free meals.

This program is an extension of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), an initiative overseen and funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). According to the USDA website, the SFSP began in 1968 in an effort to ensure that students had access to nutritious food when school wasn’t in session.

“The enrolled in-school students can receive these meals while in school during ‘normal’ meal periods.” The RCPS press release explained the protocols for meal distribution. Children attending school will receive their meals during the day, and on Tuesday afternoons they can pick up Wednesday’s meals. On Wednesdays, no students attend school in person, providing teachers with an opportunity to focus on planning virtual content and outreach. Parents of children not enrolled in RCPS can pick up meals from 3-6 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. The Monday pickup slot provides meals for three days, and the Thursday slot includes meals for two days.

“It is anticipated that this program would continue through December, 2020 (as funding is available),” the press release said. The USDA website highlights the national impacts of the program, stating that, “in 2018, the SFSP provided more than 145 million nutritious meals and snacks to children during the summer when school was not in session.”

President Trump signed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act on March 18, a piece of legislation including a waiver for states to allow SFSP sites in all areas regardless of the percentage of students in need.

When COVID-19 caused sudden school shutdowns, local officials acted swiftly to ensure that children still received meals despite the shift to virtual learning. Lehman said he’s helped coordinate the process and field questions from the public.

Over the course of five months, Lehman said he witnessed the large impacts of the program on the community.

“In the spring, we offered the same food service program that extended free meals to any child less than 18 years old,” Lehman said. “We began with about 1,000 meals a day. That increased to about 1,600 at our maximum, and then by the time we stopped at the end of July, it was down to about 700.”

Tarain May, principal of Lacey Spring Elementary School, has been active with virtual content and focus on planning Outreach. Parents who then distribute them to students at school or parents waiting in the pick up line.

“Our cafeteria workers that prepare the meals are remarkable human beings, they make and serve the meals with love,” May said.

“Families feel welcome here, at any of the Rockingham County Public Schools, they know the schools are here to care for their needs.”

Tammy May
Principal, Lacey Spring Elementary School

Food given by RCPS, like breakfast foods, are also served at JMU’s dining hall. Breeze file photo
By EDA TERCAN

In addition to the transition to online instruction, the coronavirus has caused all recruitment for clubs and activities to take place virtually. As a result, some clubs have postponed recruitment.

Senior international business major Sophie Shidlovsky is president of Epsilon Nu Tau, a co-ed professional entrepreneurship fraternity. The fraternity is usually selective about its members, but because of COVID-19, she said they've decided to forgo their recruitment process for the semester.

“We're still going to be advertising about virtual events that we're holding for people who are interested in us, but we're not going to do the formal selection process that we usually do,” Shidlovsky said.

An important part of fall recruitment for many organizations is Student Org Night. In the past, clubs were able to set up booths on campus to recruit new members. Because of the pandemic, it was reformatted to be completely virtual using an online platform where organizations have arranged virtual booths.

ENT was still able to engage with numerous students despite not having an in-person Student Org Night planning on doing a hybrid recruitment, with each event having an in-person and virtual option, junior international affairs major and senior recruitment chair Kendra LaFave said.

“It was a great way for us to still have a way to find students who would be interested in becoming a part of our organization in the spring,” Shumate said.

By EDA TERCAN

Struggle for sign-ups

Student organizations face difficulties recruiting new members during coronavirus

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However, because of the shift online, their recruitment process was canceled.

“We held an open forum and vote,” LaFave said. “It was a result of collective decision-making within the brotherhood.”

Contact Eda Tercan at tercanea@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.
Harrisonburg reacts to JMU's temporary closure

**By ISABELA GLADSTON**  
*The Breeze*

On Sept. 1, JMU announced its temporary move to online-only instruction throughout the month of September, with the possibility of in-class instruction resuming Oct. 5. Because of the COVID-19 spike at JMU, many small businesses and Harrisonburg residents have had to be more cautious around the community.

Michael Parks, director of communications for the City of Harrisonburg, said it’s “too soon” to see the economic setbacks that come with JMU’s temporary closure. He said a reason for this is because they don’t know how many students decided to stay in Harrisonburg and how many went back to their hometowns.

“There is a serious delay in when the city sees tax revenue numbers compared to when they actually happen. We probably won’t know the economic impact of this month until mid-November.”

**Michael Parks**  
director of communications for the City of Harrisonburg

The owner of Maggie Diner in Harrisonburg, Kirsten Moore, said she’s been lucky enough to not have experienced too much of an economic setback at her restaurant since opening in late July.

“When cases started to spike, we did see a slight drop in customers because I think people were nervous to come outside for a little bit, but for the most part, we’ve been unaffected,” Moore said.

“We have a unique space in the sense that it’s really large, brand new and bright and airy and clean.”

She also said she and her employees have regular conversations about comfort level and concerns regarding health. She said they all wear masks and are careful with washing hands, but at the end of the day, she said, they don’t know what they could be exposing themselves to.

“We did have a conversation last week when JMU cases were spiking referring to what we can do if someone were to make a decision to go into lockdown again,” Moore said. “Definitely thinking ahead to what would happen, we got patio heaters, so we can utilize that if need be.”

Since JMU has had a sharp increase of cases when returning to campus, other small businesses such as Maggie Diner had to come up with new and creative precautions to keep everyone safe.

According to the New York Times COVID-19 tracker, JMU ranks ninth in the country for highest COVID-19 cases. As of Monday, Sept. 14, JMU had a total of 1,316 positive COVID-19 cases — 369 of those are still active and 947 are recovered cases, according to the university’s tracker.

Laura Peters said in an article for news leader.

Parks said that hospitalizations so far in Harrisonburg have been something that’s been under control. He said that in terms of hospitalizations and deaths, the city hasn’t heard any changing information from the Virginia Department of Health.

“Almost all of the deaths that we have experienced here in our community have been related to outbreaks in two long-term care facilities,” Parks said. “At no point have we been told that the hospital is at its stretching point by any means.”

According to the Virginia Department of Health, there have been 111 hospitalizations and 20 deaths as of Sept. 15.

“We are working closely with regional and national health experts in monitoring the situation, and have put all City protocols related to the prevention of the spread of communicable diseases into action,” The City of Harrisonburg website said.

He said that this semester, the Harrisonburg Police Department hasn’t busted many parties exceeding 50 people, which is the current gathering ordinance law. He said the majority of people are abiding by that law.

“The city is doing all that it can to support VDH and JMU and EMU and every one of our communities,” Parks said. “We’re trying to support all of them as much as we possibly can.”

**CONTACT** Isabela Gladston at gladstia@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.
Biden Baits Black Voters

It seems like Joe Biden has taken to lying instead of improving his policies to make Black Americans vote for him.

EVAN HOLDEN | careful consideration

“A Black man invented the light bulb, not a white guy named Edison,” former Vice President and Democratic nominee Joe Biden said on Sept. 3 during a long and passionate speech about racial issues in the U.S.

This statement isn’t true, and Biden most likely knows it. Still, he made this specific comment in front of a predominantly Black audience and community in Kenosha, Washington. He wants to manipulate the Black community with rhetoric and lies like this to gain more support.

Imagine hearing this comment as a Black American and believing it. It’d incite hatred and disappointment toward the U.S. and its education systems. They might consider how it’d be possible for the U.S. to hate people for their skin color so much that they could steal this monumental achievement from the Black community and lie about it for generations.

Imagine what thinking this and genuinely believing it would feel like. This is the reality Biden’s racial pandering and manipulation can create in its listeners. In this one statement, he paints a picture of America as horribly corrupt and racist only to say he understands and can make it better. If this claim were true, he’d be entirely justified in pointing it out. But it’s not true, and this is precisely the kind of rhetoric Biden’s used his entire campaign and long before it began.

In the very same speech, he made a similar comment that was arguably even worse. Biden talked about some of the corporations he thought weren’t paying enough tax money but said he wouldn’t name them because, “They’ll shoot me.” Many believe this was a joke alluding to how the meeting in Kenosha was partly held in honor of Jacob Blake, a 29-year-old Black man shot by police on Aug. 23. It’s not difficult to imagine how Biden could’ve seen this comment as a way to relate to the community and subtly claim he was just like them.

Surely, many will remember what Biden said back in May, as it’s been talked about as one of the worst things he’s said during his campaign — or maybe ever:

“If you have a problem figuring out whether you’re for me or Trump, then you ain’t Black.”

It’s incredibly concerning that any politician could have words as racist and manipulative as these slipther from their mouth and still secure the Democratic Party nomination. Black voters don’t owe Biden their support, and it’s disappointing to see him try and indoctrinate them into this way of thinking.

This isn’t to say that politicians shouldn’t aim to care and look after all racial and cultural groups. In fact, they absolutely need to, especially right now. The problem is how they get the support of the people they claim to care about and want to help. The correct and only ethical way to gain a demographic’s support is to speak truthfully about what can be done for them if the candidate’s elected.

We can no longer tolerate this kind of rhetoric, lying and manipulation toward our most vulnerable communities, or our country’s racial divide will only grow wider.

Evan Holden is a sophomore political science major. Contact Evan at holdened@dukes.jmu.edu.
We demand transparency

Live public comments need to be allowed for the Board of Visitors meeting, or nothing will change.

As of Sept. 10, JMU had the ninth-highest number of COVID-19 cases per college in the country, according to The New York Times. Let’s go Dukes?

It’s not a secret that this semester is unlike any other, and with a university that prides itself on civic engagement, The Breeze calls on JMU to open its Friday Board of Visitors meeting for live public comment. In the past, questions have been accepted at these meetings, but by prohibiting the public from commenting live this Friday, the university is insinuating that it has something to hide.

JMU is one of the leaders of COVID-19 cases in the U.S., which should prompt the university to be more transparent than it’s ever been. By not allowing live public comment in the Board of Visitors’ meeting, JMU is proving that authenticity was never on the table.

With a pandemic that’s clearly making its mark on campus, students, parents, faculty and staff deserve the opportunity to speak directly to the university’s leaders as the conversation happens. JMU constantly reminds us of how much our presence impacts the university, yet University advocates for an open dialogue, yet actions, it’s clear that it isn’t really a priority.

President Alger has hidden behind his screen for too long. He needs to answer authentic questions based on the discussions at Friday’s meeting. By having this meeting closed for live public comment, the university is giving Alger, and other key members, another chance to hide from the people they need to talk to the most.

People should be given the ability to stand in front of their leaders and ask tough questions. So why isn’t JMU letting them?

The Breeze’s Editorial Board represents the official stance of the paper on important issues such as this one. For more information, contact Editor-in-Chief Katelyn Walmeyer at breezeeditor@gmail.com.

Make no mark

Jenna Horrall | contributing writer

The Harrisonburg community is full of friendly people — there’s no doubt about that. Most of the time, its residents don’t mind students pouring into the community for nine months out of the year, but other times, they don’t always think fondly of students.

Most locals view JMU as a business within the community, and although students contribute to the local economy for a large portion of the year, they’re still an inconvenience in terms of population density and environmental impact.

Students should actively work to decrease their carbon footprint and waste during their time in Harrisonburg in order to maintain a positive relationship with locals and lessen their net waste. Students come into the community and establish a temporary home here, so they should be respectful to the surrounding Harrisonburg community in an environmental sense.

Luckily, Harrisonburg offers a wide variety of eco-friendly options that students can access. They’re all located within Harrisonburg, and although some require a bit more effort, it truly makes a difference within the community, and students should seek to take advantage of them.

One practice that students can implement is composting. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, composting is important because it “keeps [food waste] materials out of landfills where they take up space and release methane, a potent greenhouse gas.” People usually have the idea that in order to compost, you have to have a yard or a garden to dispose of the waste in. Thanks to the compost drop-off center located in downtown Harrisonburg, one doesn’t need those requirements to participate in composting.

People can collect their food waste throughout the week in a container and drop it off at the bins downtown. Students would need to obtain some sort of bin to store their food waste in as well as compostable bags to transport it to the drop-off location. There are compostable bags at the site if needed.

Students can also take advantage of Harrisonburg’s recycling convenience center. Located near Stone Spring Road, it’s about a six-minute drive from campus, so it’s a bit out of the way for those without transportation.

It’s important to know that the recycling center is limited in that only certain plastic items are accepted. You can check out the website for a comprehensive list as well as business hours, but in terms of plastic, they only accept No. 1 (transparent) and No. 2 plastics. It’s helpful to separate it beforehand by dedicating certain bins to plastic, glass, cardboard and paper so it won’t have to be done upon arrival to the center.

The Friendly City Food Co-op located in downtown Harrisonburg offers a wide variety of fresh, local food as well as bulk food options. If cutting down on waste is a priority, this grocery store is perfect, as they allow customers to bring personal containers to refill foods in bulk, such as oats, olive oil, popcorn, beans and more.

Promoting local agriculture is also an accessible option for students. Not only is the produce fresher than chain grocery stores, but students will be contributing to the local economy directly. The farmer’s market in downtown Harrisonburg takes place every Saturday and Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Many local farmers and businesses attend, and there’s a wide variety of produce to choose from. Some of the produce is also sold to the food co-op mentioned above, so that’s another option if those hours aren’t viable.

Students should continuously work to uphold sustainable and eco-friendly practices to decrease their environmental impact in Harrisonburg. There’s a wide variety of ecologically-sound practices that students can participate in during their time here. Students should recognize that their presence in Harrisonburg does have a major impact on the local environment. The main way to address that issue is to reduce the impact on the environment, and that starts with individual transitions to a more eco-friendly lifestyle.

The last, and perhaps most important lifestyle change, is to reduce, reuse and recycle. When one reduces their consumption, they reuses what they have and recycles what they don’t need, it’s the ultimate waste-reduction combination and diminishes their footprint on the environment.

Jenna Horrall is a senior computer science major and sociology minor. Contact Jenna at horraljk@dukes.jmu.edu.
Oldie but a goodie

Senior dogs are the perfect companions for college students

SUMMER CONLEY | contributing writer

College students search for wiggly puppies to bring home to their roommates and trot around campus, but they often fail to measure their time commitment to a pet. A puppy impulsively adopted in college can live well over a decade, and pets can get lost in the whirlwind of post-graduate life. I took all of this into account when I started searching for a dog my freshman year at JMU.

My experience with animal rescue and a brief stint in dog training prepared me for the daunting task of finding a small dog, but I never had the intention of adopting a gray-faced, overweight chihuahua. Searching for an adoptable dog online — something that's even more common now, thanks to COVID-19 — can be overwhelming with all the options and organizations, but when I saw this small dog grinning at me through the monitor screen, I knew I had to meet him.

The next day, I took home #1346 and quickly renamed him PB, or Paul Blart, for his squat posture and friendly nature. I was surprised to find out that he was already potty trained and understood some basic commands, such as “sit” and “shake.” Many older dogs are usually adopted with some form of training, and it allows for a quicker adjustment period in their new home.

Senior dogs are ready to wind down and relax, and this offers the perfect amount of commitment for a college student. Having a puppy to play with during finals might ease the stress of studying, but the constant need for supervision and exercise can have a negative impact on everyday life throughout the rest of the year. PB spends most of his time napping quietly at my feet while I complete assignments but never turns down an opportunity to take a walk or grab a snack.

PB was 10 years old when I adopted him in 2017. Since then, we’ve traveled to four different states, swam at the beach, explored the Valley, taken endless car rides and made many new friends. His sociable personality was well established before I brought him home, which is usually the case when looking at mature dogs. A student will know exactly what kind of pet they’re bringing into their life when adopting a senior dog, whereas a puppy can act differently from the dog they grow up to be. Adopting a senior hasn’t inhibited my ability to create worthwhile memories.

He’s a regular visitor on the Quad, local hiking trails and hasn’t slowed down yet. Bringing home an older companion isn’t just hospice care. Although puppies can be exceptionally adorable, they come with baggage that most students aren’t prepared to handle. The solid dependability of a senior dog is exactly what many college-aged people are looking for, as many of them come trained, vaccinated and neutered.

“PB represents how much life a senior dog has left to give. Making the decision to add a dog to a daily routine requires diligent planning and a lifelong promise of care and love, regardless of age. Adopting a pet means considering how their temperament, energy and size will affect a household for years to come. Senior dogs aren’t what most college students want, but bringing home a graying muzzle offers everything they need.”

Summer Conley
Opinion writer

Senior dogs are better than puppies. Their graying faces and warm eyes are often overlooked in shelters due to the misconceptions of what it means to adopt an older dog.

A dog, like PB, with a relaxed nature is perfect for busy students.
What about refunds?

Students want to know what they can expect with their money if school goes fully online

KYLEE TOLAND | mindful insights

As JMU begins online courses because of the rising of COVID-19 cases, the issue of refunds has been discussed among the student body. Students who’ve paid for meal plans, parking passes and room and board are wondering if there’s a way of receiving their money back on something that’ll most likely not be used during the fall semester. Another issue arises when the factor of tuition plays a role in a student being refunded their money.

When the pandemic first landed in the U.S. and began shutting down schools across the nation, JMU was met with these same questions from students and their families about being refunded for their necessities. In response to this, JMU issued refunds to on-campus residents for the spring semester; however, students only received about half of their room and board and about 75% of half a semester’s cost of their meal plan. Full-time commuter parking passes were issued a $38 refund, while other parking passes were given $19 and $13 back.

As COVID-19 has already affected this fall semester by making classes go online for the next four weeks and causing most on-campus residents to move back home, people are wondering whether or not the semester will remain online and how that’ll affect their refunds. Although this was dealt with in the previous spring semester, it was only half a semester, and refunds were issued fairly quickly. It’s different this semester because there’s a whole semester ahead of the student body, and refunds could be handed out in different ways.

When the university decided to go online this semester for four weeks, on-campus residents were told to leave the following Monday unless they filled out an exemption form to stay in the residence halls. If the university decides to go online completely after the first four weeks, it’s more than likely that all residents will be asked to leave the campus. If this were to happen, refunds for room and board should be given. However, it wouldn’t have to be the full amount due to the fact that there’ll likely still be a spring semester. In this case, JMU should offer students a refund for half of the fall semester.

For a student’s meal plan, dining dollars and flex money should stay in place, letting students use the remaining money for the upcoming spring semester. Refunds for the regular meal plan, or “punches,” should be given in the full amount since it’s more than likely that students will be sent home if JMU decides to go fully online, making students unable to use their meals. Also, parking services are already given full $300 refunds to students who purchased a parking pass. However, refunds were only available until Sept. 11, and if someone wanted a refund, they had to take the sticker off their car and return it to parking services. The parking stickers are difficult to remove since they’re made to stick to any object and not peel off. JMU has already said that they’ll take back stickers even if they’re damaged from being taken off cars and announced that students won’t need a parking permit to park in student lots through Oct. 4.

While room and board, meal plans and parking are the focus of receiving refunds, many have begun to wonder if JMU will give them any money back for their tuition. If JMU decides to go online for the rest of the semester, that’ll mean that students won’t receive in-person teaching and hands-on material that a class may have to offer. Many majors require their students to be interactive with each other and have hands-on experience; however, that can’t happen if classes go completely online, especially if the few exempted classes still meeting in person are forced to move online as well. In this case, there should be some sort of refund to students for the tuition. It doesn’t have to be much, but at least enough for what a student will be missing out on that semester.

If JMU decides to make the semester fully online after the first four weeks, the question about refunds will only get tougher. It’ll be something that JMU will have to address, and hopefully they’ll be able to refund students a fair amount. If not, students may lose hope on what’s expected with refunds if COVID-19 affects the rest of their college years.

Kylene Tolland is a junior media arts and design major. Contact Kylene at tolandkm@dukes.jmu.edu.
Hardship brings hope

JMU Spanish instructor reflects on homelessness, faith and optimism for the future

By CHARLOTTE MATHERLY
The Breeze

In the early months of 2000, a young man exited a plane in Washington, D.C., with two friends after a 17-hour flight from their previous home in Montevideo, Uruguay. Their ride never showed up.

Javier Calleja, now an adjunct professor in JMU’s Spanish department, had embarked on a journey that changed his life.

Calleja said that he’ll never forget that moment. Left with $247 and a suitcase, he and his friends ended up in an expensive hotel. He said he immediately realized he could only afford two nights.

Soon, his friends left and Calleja was on his own — and homeless.

“There was a rough time, but I guess ... I gained strength,” Calleja said. “I think it taught me a lot, a lot about myself.”

Calleja said he used the last of his money for a bus ride to Harrisonburg. Then, he was homeless for three months. After leaving Uruguay, the bitter cold of Harrisonburg was a shock, and he said that winter was the first time he experienced snow.

Being homeless was a difficult transition, for a bus ride to Harrisonburg. Then, he was homeless for three months. After leaving Uruguay, the bitter cold of Harrisonburg was a shock, and he said that winter was the first time he experienced snow.

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“During that time, I ate from the trash can,” Calleja said. “The first day that I ate from the trash can, I cried ... But the second day that I ate from the trash can, I remember being happy, and I prayed before I ate, and I thanked God that I was able to find food in the trash can.”

Calleja said that at the time, he wasn’t aware of the Salvation Army or other homeless shelters in the area. At one point, he slept in a treehouse in someone’s front yard because his only other option was the side of the road.

Soon, Calleja found what he called a mix between a crawl space and a basement. He said the “underground, unfinished structure” had a concrete floor, brick walls and a broken door that didn’t stand a chance against the frigid winter wind.

During this time, Calleja worked as a housekeeper, then in fast food service and construction. He said he wanted to go to JMU, but he couldn’t afford it — he needed to work.

After having many low-paying and time-demanding jobs, Calleja was hired to work at a local bank. There, he saved enough money to begin school and got his Bachelor of Arts at Eastern Mennonite University and earned his masters and Ph.D. at Jaen University in Spain. Now, he teaches Spanish at JMU. He married his girlfriend — Brenda Calleja, a JMU alumna — who he met when he was homeless, and he now has four kids. He said he’s grateful for all the possibilities and everyone who helped him along the way.

“I think it was the country, that it gives opportunity to everyone, in my opinion,” Calleja said. “And I know that it is hard, and we have to work hard. And sometimes, even for people who work hard, it doesn’t happen ... But the opportunity is given, you know, whereby members of the community ... opened their doors to me.”

Justin Larabee, a senior theatre major, recently took Calleja’s SPAN 223 class. He said that Calleja was “down-to-earth” and helpful, and he could tell Calleja truly wanted his students to learn, no matter what.

Larabee said Calleja would often spend the last few minutes of class telling students his life stories and about the people who helped him throughout his life. He said he feels that Calleja would do anything to help his students.

“I feel like he’s a very empowered person,” Larabee said. “He just wants, like, everyone else in this world, they want to feel validated. So I think he does that in his teaching. He’s very considerate.”

Calleja said there are many people in the Spanish department who’ve helped him throughout his life. However, Hugo Moreira, another Spanish instructor, has been “like a father” to him.

Moreira, who also used to live in Uruguay, never met Calleja until they both came to America. They came close, though, when Calleja attended a Mennonite church in Uruguay, but Moreira, then a Mennonite pastor, worked in a different town.

The two friends only met about three years ago — in a McDonald’s. “I was sitting there eating a hamburger,” Moreira said. “I recognized him, and he recognized me.”

They’d previously met in passing at EMU, where Calleja was a student and Moreira was attending a workshop. Moreira encouraged Calleja, who was teaching at a high school at the time, to apply to work at JMU. Since then, they’ve grown close. Moreira said they share many of the same values.

“His a dedicated teacher,” Moreira said. “He cares about everyone ... You can be, you know, like, a teacher, you know, only teaching a lesson in Spanish, but you’re also communicating values. You’re communicating values of honesty, you know, you’re communicating values of friendship and understanding ... You’re shaping the character of people.”

Calleja said he hopes his story can help people who feel hopeless or like life is too difficult. He said he wants people to know there’s always a way out if they work hard.

“You just need to keep fighting and working and mobilizing and organizing and participating in every aspect that you can in the society. And you will prevail.”

Javier Calleja
Adjunct Spanish instructor
Six degrees of Dan Harrison

BY JILLIAN LYNCH contributing writer

A game of Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon would be hard to win against Dan Harrison, the technical and operations manager of Wilson Hall Auditorium and Anthony Seeger Auditorium, whose career as a production crew member for countless movies, sporting events and concerts put him in close contact with a number of celebrities.

Harrison, who worked as a production crew member and “roadie” for nearly two decades before coming to JMU, built sets for movies including “The Game Plan,” starring Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, “Knight and Day,” starring Cameron Diaz and Tom Cruise, and “R.I.P.D.,” starring Kevin Bacon. He also built sets for concert tours with musicians including Shakira, the Rolling Stones, Arlo Guthrie and the recently deceased Toots Hibbert of Toots and the Maytals.

“TOOTS was really nice,” Harrison said. “I think when you’ve smoked as much weed as he has, it’s hard not to be nice.”

Harrison, who studied piano performance in JMU’s School of Music, moved to Boston early in his career and worked odd jobs in The Garage mall at Harvard Square while occasionally returning to JMU to assist with productions in Wilson Hall for the technical and operations manager at the time, Thomas Parr Hern (’80).

Hern said he believes Harrison’s success can be attributed to his strong work ethic.

“Danny was a hard worker and always was there early and left late,” Hern said.

In 2007, Harrison returned to JMU to set up for a Brandi Carlile and Howie Day concert that was run by a Boston-based production company.

The company offered Harrison a job, which got his foot in the door in the Boston concert world, building sets for “basically every New England college that had a large event space,” including the American Repertory Theater at Harvard.

Setting up for shows was “my fun work that turned into a career,” Harrison said. At the height of his career, Harrison helped build sets for two of the largest touring stages in the world: the first was the Rolling Stones’ A Bigger Bang tour (’05-’07), and the second was U2’s 360° tour (’09-’12), the largest touring stage in history. The stage for the U2 tour was nicknamed “The Claw,” since it was an enormous, 162-foot tall circular platform, which allowed the audience to surround the band on all sides.

For many movies, Harrison said he didn’t see any actors in his job. He worked as a grip — a person who helps prep for filming — on a movie called “Telltale” at an abandoned hospital in Boston.

“I sat on the roof, and I had no idea what was going on,” Harrison said as he recalled a cold night spent operating a giant, 32-foot tall nine-light. “Four hours later, somebody would bring me food.”

He said most of the time, celebrities got in the way of his work — literally. While filming “Paul Blart: Mall Cop” on an island near Quincy, Massachusetts, Harrison held up a barricade to protect the film crew from high winds “because sandbags just weren’t doing it.” At the end of a take for a scene of Long Island state-trooper training when Blart passed out, Harrison said Kevin James turned a corner of a barricade and slammed into him. Harrison said he apologized and that James pointed to his belly and said, “This thing gets in the way all the time.”

Other times, the celebrities sat down with Harrison, like at the Champlain Valley Fair in Vermont where he ate dinner with Paul Simon and the folk musician’s son at a picnic table behind a stage. Harrison said Paul Simon was cordial while referring to Simon’s son as a “firecracker.”

“That kid had some sass to him,” Harrison said. “Gave Paul Simon’s agent hell over the phone and then hung up the phone and just died laughing because he was totally yanking his chain.”

Harrison said some of his other favorite experiences were having a cigarette with Arlo Guthrie, setting up a piano for Elton John, who Harrison referred to as “a class act,” and building a half-pipe in a converted bullring in Beijing, China, for the AST Mountain Dew Tour.

In 2006, Harrison was a lighting director for a children’s theater on Nantucket Island when he got an important phone call from Hern, who was retiring from 40 years of service at JMU and said they’d be waiting for Harrison’s resume.

“The timing just worked out,” Harrison, excited to be closer to his two nieces and grandparents in Virginia, said. “A two-hour drive is a hell of a lot shorter than a two-hour boat ride and a nine-hour drive.”

Plus, Harrison said he bought a house in the area instead of having “the really expensive storage unit other people would call an apartment.”

As Technical Manager of Wilson Hall, Harrison helped implement a laundry list of changes during the 2018-19 renovation, including an updated lighting system with color-changing LEDs and updated projection technology. Harrison said he wanted to make these improvements so students could have more capabilities in their shows.

“When you go to a concert, there’s video, there’s visualizations, there’s projections, there’s a video wall, there’s lasers,” Harrison said. “And the students want to do that in their shows here.”

The pandemic also brought a blessing in disguise to Wilson Hall — a livestream system. After the pandemic hit, Harrison brought up the idea of installing a livestream system, and to his surprise, his request was approved. The system, which was completed only two weeks ago, makes it possible for events to be held in Wilson with no audience.

“I was very fortunate that we had it in the budget to do all of those things,” Harrison said.

Because of the switch to online classes, there are no events — in person or otherwise — currently planned in Wilson Hall Auditorium, except for a professor from the history department who opted to record lectures in the space. Harrison has implemented COVID-19 traffic plans, and as for the signs on the floor: “Those are my fault,” Harrison said, joking.

“Usually, Harrison describes his job as part stage manager and part whip cracker. He also said working with student organizations, such as Filipino Americans at Madison, the Asian Student Union and several others, to create the vision for culture shows — events run by students that present their heritage through dance and other performances — is a big part of his job, and he said he hopes these events get more publicity in the future.

RJ Mosuela, a senior health sciences major and president of FAM, which holds two culture shows each year in Memorial Hall, agrees that more JMU students should attend cultural productions.

“It’s a way to become more knowledgeable of who also makes up the JMU community,” Mosuela, who grew up in a predominantly white area, said. “You might learn a thing or two about varying walks of life, and you might just find a new organization to be a part of.”

Harrison has helped organizations like FAM develop their vision when it comes to putting on a culture show. Harrison said he’s passionate about “creating a visual aesthetic that tells a story and invokes a feeling in people” using scenery and lighting.

Hern, who was technical manager for Wilson Hall Auditorium while Harrison was still a student, said he believes directing the auditorium requires refined knowledge — along with an ingredient that can’t be taught.

“You have to have passion to do this kind of work,” he said.

Hern said he believes Harrison has the same passion for the job that he himself had.

“At this point I’m sure Danny knows more than I do about production,” Hern said. “Regardless of whether he agrees with me or not, he knows a lot about the technical side of things.”

Harrison’s advice to future production workers is to stay relevant and never stop learning.

“The technology that we use in the entertainment industry is always changing,” Harrison said. “If you get stuck in a rut with what you know, you will get stuck in a rut careerwise.”

“Be able to work in every department and you will always have work,” Harrison said.

CONTACT Jillian Lynch at lynch84mj@dukes.jmu.edu. For more on the culture, arts and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Twitter and Instagram @Breeze_Culture.
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Senior celebrates and fights stigma of online dating with new single

By JOANNA SOMMER
The Breeze

Diana Suk said she’s always wanted to write a song.
“Internet” is an anniversary gift for her boyfriend. Suk wrote the single “Internet” as an anniversary gift for her boyfriend. Photos courtesy of Diana Suk

“I wrote it right on the spot, and I never really changed it. I just listened to it, and it was like a movie; the words just fell out of my mouth.”

Diana Suk
Singer-songwriter of “Internet”

Suk said she and her boyfriend met on Hinge, an online dating app last year.
“We both kind of took it as a joke,” Suk said. “We weren’t expecting anything of it, but that’s how most relationships turn out. You weren’t expecting or looking, and we ended up not wanting to separate.”

“Our song is about finding love from the internet and being extremely thankful the internet exists, even though it can be cheesy or nerve-wracking to meet someone off a dating app,” Suk said. “I think the song just makes me want to have fun and dance, and that’s exactly how I feel in my relationship.”

Henry Bramham, Suk’s boyfriend, said he thinks the song is about young love and finding love in a new generation. He also said it’s a testimony to self-confidence.

“The song kind of has these undertones of, well, sometimes people can make a meme out of internet dating, and it may not be realistic for actually finding someone right,” Bramham said. “It speaks to a little bit of how Hinge and Tinder and all those dating apps don’t just have to help hookup culture thrive, but they can also feed into actually finding someone that you want to be with, which is pretty special.”
Suk said the day after she finished the lyrics for “Internet” she texted Zach Benson, a friend and alumnus who produced the song for her, asking if he’d be able to help her come up with an instrumental.

“She sent me a voice note singing over a royalty-free beat that she found, and I was obsessed with the song,” Benson said. “I thought her voice sounded incredible, the lyrics were super sweet and it definitely had that cool lo-fi TikTok sort of vibe that her voice sounds incredible over.”

Once he agreed to produce the music, Suk recorded the song after borrowing equipment from a friend. She stayed up all night to record and finished after three hours. She said she sent her recordings to Benson as soon as she could so he’d be able to work on a beat.

Suk sent him a beat and two reference songs she liked and selected elements from them that they both enjoyed hearing. He listened to the voice recordings multiple times, picking out different instruments and textures that she liked, creating a basic beat. The production process took roughly an hour or two, and from there, they had back-and-forth exchanges of different parts to tweak.

“It was a super quick and easy process of me just sort of figuring out all the different elements of the track she wanted, and how to marinate them in the best way possible,” Benson said.

Benson said he thinks when people listen to “Internet” they’ll reminisce on someone they love in their life.

“It could be like a roommate you met online, or like, someone you met through Twitter or someone you met through Instagram,” Benson said. “I hope people will get a warm, fuzzy feeling whenever they listen to it.”

Three to four days later, the song was ready. Suk began promoting “Internet” on her Instagram a week before Sept. 1 and released it at midnight. She successfully kept it a secret from her boyfriend until it was released, and Bramham said he was absolutely blown away.

“I was instantly drawn to thinking about all the hard work she had put in toward planning it all out and obviously writing the song and finding someone to produce it,” Bramham said. “It had so much work going on toward it behind the scenes that she had kept a secret that it was really just a testimony to her hard work and how much she cared about me.”

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Suk said this process has made her feel like her dream of writing songs and singing them for people is coming to life.

“I’m excited for what else I can do,” Suk said. “It just feels like a basis almost, it’s not like, ‘Alright, I did it, I’m done. This is how I’ll get success.’ It’s like, I can’t wait to put out more and write more songs because it’s something I love to do.”

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The gym can be an intimidating place, especially when it’s as big as UREC. Whether it's one's first time working out or one exercises regularly, it can be hard not to compare oneself to others or feel embarrassed.

Paige Dunigan came to JMU after graduating from Westfield High School in 2015. She grew up playing soccer and suffered two bad concussions during her senior year that ended her career. Dunigan started weightlifting as a replacement for all the time she'd spent playing soccer.

"Not playing sports left a big void," Dunigan said, "I needed some other way to channel that energy."

When Dunigan first started going to UREC, it was undergoing renovations to expand its facilities, including the main gym. Before the renovation, Dunigan said the treadmills and cardio equipment were on a different floor than the weights and machines.

"You'd never see any girls go down there, it was always just guys, and it was really intimidating," Dunigan said. "Then when [the renovations were complete] I feel like it just kind of changed the whole mentality of it."

Once the renovation was complete, Dunigan said she saw more girls weightlifting at UREC and was motivated to do it herself. She learned proper form and technique by looking at the pictures on the sides of the machines and from friends who lifted and also learned how to target specific muscles.

"Leg day [is my favorite], I love squats and deadlifts," Dunigan said. "I think from soccer my legs have just always been my favorite thing to exercise."

Tran Truong (20')spent a lot of time working out at UREC. He and Dunigan frequently worked out at the same time and began to gradually make small talk and build a friendship.

"That's the beauty of UREC," Truong said. "When you go at a certain time or day you always see familiar faces."

Gym intimidation, or gymtimidation, is when a person is intimidated by other gymgoers, usually due to physical appearance and comparison to oneself. Truong said he thinks this is a huge reason why girls are nervous to lift at the gym, especially one as big as UREC.

"The stereotypical image of just a strong, male, masculine dominated scene," Truong said. "But I think the media and [activewear brands] like Gymshark, Alphalete and Lululemon have really made it more inclusive, and so it really changed the scene."

Prioritizing a healthy lifestyle in college is important, but it can be difficult, especially when living on campus. Many freshmen have to learn how to adjust to living alone for the first time and are also worried about making friends, which might cause them to make unhealthy choices, such as drinking alcohol and eating unhealthy food on a regular basis.

"There’s always people wanting to go out or go and order pizza," Dunigan said. "Things like that were definitely harder for me. Especially freshman and sophomore year, I would rather just go to the gym than go out sometimes."

Dunigan joined a sorority as a freshman and lived in the sorority house her sophomore year. That was when she created an Instagram account where she posted the workouts she was doing as a way to hold herself accountable to her goals.

"Everyone was really supportive," Dunigan said. "There were some girls in my sorority house [who would ask me to workout with them or show them a good workout], and even to this day everyone’s still so supportive. That was always nice because I felt like I still had that support system, even if they necessarily weren’t doing what I was doing."

In addition to her workouts at UREC, Dunigan said she tried to do something active on days she couldn’t make it to the gym, but Dunigan said they can still get in a great workout.
“Not playing sports left a big void. I needed some other way to channel that energy.”

Paige Dunigan
JMU alumna

“If I was in that situation, I’d probably just focus on my healthy eating but also just trying to get whatever exercise you can,” Dunigan said. “Even if it’s just for a walk, anything helps.”

Maddie Judge, a senior at JMU, works at UREC as a personal trainer. She’s worked out at UREC since her freshman year and has continued going to UREC throughout the pandemic.

“I don’t think it’s that bad to be honest,” Judge said. “The availability’s really good, and everything’s really clean.”

Youtube, Instagram and TikTok have all become huge platforms for “fitness influencers” to share free workouts. Dunigan’s Instagram account has over 1,600 followers, and her workout posts get hundreds of likes. Madison Richard, who graduated from JMU last spring, credits fitness accounts like Dunigan’s not only for motivating her to stay active in college but also for getting more girls interested in lifting weights.

“If throughout my freshman year, there were more and more girls [in the gym] going over to the weights,” Richard said. “They weren’t just doing the traditional cardio things that you might see girls doing; I saw a lot of them going over to the weights. I think social media accounts [and seeing posts like Dunigan’s on Instagram’s explore page] had a really big influence because they would pop up on my [Instagram] explore page or they’d get shared in Facebook groups.”

Dunigan graduated in 2015 and moved back home to Northern Virginia. She became a certified personal trainer and is a trainer for Stoked Bodies Fitness. Last June she released an ab and core strength guide, an eight-week program which she sold for $8

CONTACT Courtney Ryder at ryderce@dukes.jmu.edu. For more sports and recreation coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.

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A look down memory lane at Convo

Here’s a glimpse of two memorable games

By NOAH ZIEGLER & ANDREW OLIVEROS

The Breeze

The Convocation Center closed its doors after the 2019-20 JMU men’s and women’s basketball season. Since the Conv opened in 1982, there have been many memories that’ll always be in the hearts of the JMU players and fans.

Men’s basketball:
Auburn vs. JMU, 1992

The attendance of 7,800 people at the game on Dec. 5, 1992, created a three-way tie for the highest attendance ever at a JMU men’s basketball game. The Dukes upset the Tigers 89-80, but this was no easy competition they faced.

Auburn is in the SEC, and some of its competition in the 1992-93 season was nationally ranked. The Tigers went up against Kentucky, the No. 2 ranked team in the country, and only lost by two points. By the end of that season, one of the Wildcats’ former forwards, Jamal Wasburn, made the AP All-America First Team. Auburn even defeated Arkansas, the No. 8 team in the country, which included future NBA top-15 pick Corliss Williamson. The Dukes were up for the challenge.

The Dukes were against former Auburn forward Aaron Swinson, who had the best field goal percentage in the SEC with 60% in the 1992-93 season, and former Auburn guard Ronnie Battle, who was on the All-SEC Second Team the season prior. Swinson and Battle put up double-digit points, but it still wasn’t enough for their team to win.

After taking a 40-29 lead at halftime, both teams exploded in the second half for a barrage of points. Behind Swinson and Battle’s 19 points each, Wesley Person’s 15 points and Reggie Gallon’s 13, Auburn put up 51 points in the second half in what would normally be enough to win any game.

JMU had a different idea. The Dukes shot 59.3% from the field compared to Auburn’s 44.6%. Six former JMU men’s basketball players put up double-digit points. Former JMU forward Clayton Ritter had a perfect night from the field, going 10-for-10 and scoring 20 points. He also added two blocks. Former JMU center/forward Jeff Chambers scored zero points but did have his presence felt on the defensive side of the court with three steals.

Former head coach Lefty Driesell would go on to lead JMU to a 21-9 (11-3 CAA) record, including a CAA Men’s Basketball Tournament championship appearance. The Dukes wouldn’t reach 21 wins again until 2008-09. Despite falling to ECU in the title game, the Dukes received a bid to the National Invitation Tournament, where they fell to Providence in the first round.

Women’s basketball:
Syracuse vs. JMU, 2012

Nine years ago, JMU women’s basketball found itself in the center of a Cinderella story. After crashing out of the CAA Tournament, the Dukes received a bid to the WNIT, where they’d meet Davidson in the first round.

A 64-49 win over the Wildcats set up a date with Wake Forest. JMU prevailed in overtime and met South Florida in the third round, where it’d win in commanding fashion, 72-45. This set up a quarterfinal contest against in-state rival Virginia — a team that beat JMU earlier in the season.

The Wahoos wouldn’t prevail a second time against their rivals from the Shenandoah Valley, and the Dukes were dancing to the WNIT Final Four.

In the semifinals, JMU welcomed then-Big East power Syracuse. The Conv had 4,008 fans watching their beloved Dukes still playing deep into March and were hopeful to see the team go where it hadn’t before — the WNIT Championship.

JMU’s first half saw poor shooting. It shot 25.28% from the field, 2-for-9 from 3-point range, but managed to lead 33-31 at the half. The Orange, however, had Kayla Alexander, who was wreaking havoc in the paint and creating issues for the Dukes’ defense.

The second half was a different story. JMU shot 52% and went 14-for-19 from the charity stripe, but it was still back and forth. Following a Nikki Newman 3 with 3:36 left to make it 70-62, Syracuse went on a 6-0 run to pull within two. After a layup to push JMU’s lead to four, the Orange missed a 3 and lost possession on the ensuing rebound.

The Dukes were 50 seconds away from a WNIT title game appearance.

Tarik Hislop nailed two more free throws to seal the game and carry JMU to a 74-71 win in a match that saw 10 lead changes and 10 ties. Four Dukes finished with 10 or more points, while Alexander had 29 points, 13 rebounds and four blocks — all game highs.

JMU would go on to lose to Oklahoma State in the WNIT Final, but the season remains one of the more memorable ones in program history and also showed why the Dukes are the fourth-winningest program in Division I.

CONTACT Noah Ziegler and Andrew Oliveros at breezesports@gmail.com. For more football coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.
Bright future
Volleyball’s underclassmen show program has solid future

BY MADISON HRICIK
The Breeze

During the 2019 season, the JMU volleyball team saw some of the strongest underclassmen talent since 2016. With a strong focus on offensive power, the Dukes were able to mold their next set of veteran players. Now with new freshmen joining the roster for a new season, the team will have the strongest underclassmen lineup in the CAA.

Following the 2019 season for JMU volleyball, the Dukes signed four new incoming freshmen to join the team in 2020. JMU finished second in the CAA tournament after Towson took the crown. The season has yet to be determined for this year, but, it’s likely that these two teams will take the top two spots once again. The division rivals both have similar lineups, and following last year’s championship, the Dukes will look to reclaim their title.

Super sophomores
Sophomore middle hitter Sophia Davis had a breakout freshman season with 257 kills and 24 digs. Davis was named VaSID Player of the Year, CAA First Team and CAA All-Rookie Team. She was named a threat for the Dukes early on in the season, with her first collegiate start on Aug. 30, and she’s played nearly every game since.

The Fort Lauderdale, Florida, native played alongside recently graduated outside hitter Briley Brind’Amour and setter Sarah Martin as well as sophomore outside hitter Danielle Nathan.

Nathan’s also proven to be a force for JMU. She made her collegiate debut the same day as Davis against Washington State. Nathan ended up finishing her season with 215 kills and 42 digs. Playing alongside Davis, the two have been able to create on-court chemistry that’ll continue to grow in this coming season.

Sophomore setter Caroline Dozier brought strong defensive statistics in her freshman campaign. With 122 digs and 83 assists on her season, Dozier proved that she can continue to grow as a starting setter for the team.

Redshirt sophomore outside hitter Cameryn Jones also showed early promise in her first season with 63 kills and 21 digs.

The Dukes are introducing three hitters, a defensive libero and a setter. The hitters are Miëtte Veldman, Elizabeth Helmich and Savannah Cockrill. All three have impressive experience prior to their commitment to JMU.

Statistically, the Dukes have a strong and experienced lineup that rivals any CAA team. In the event the Dukes make a championship run once again, the combination of skills in the freshman and sophomore class together will bring a new strength that hasn’t been seen in many seasons.

New faces
Reanne Bihlmeyer will be the newest libero, with liberos Savannah Marshall and Zara White as her newest teammates to work with. Setter Hannah Roberts will grow alongside Dozier and junior Rebecca Frye after previous starting setter Sarah Martin graduated in May.

Veldman comes to JMU with immense offensive and defensive skills. Notching 1,000 kills in her junior season and another 1,000 digs in her senior season, she was also named the Blue Ridge District Player of the Year all four years of high school. Her quick reflexive abilities show promise for her career as a Duke, and she can easily be paired with Dozier and Nathan for a strong and fast offensive line.

Arriving opposite to Veldman is Helmich, who comes with her own set of accomplishments as well. Claiming three different accolades in 2019 — Star Tribune Metro First Team, 3A State Tournament Team and Ms. Volleyball Finalist — Helmich will have a chance to gain even more experience in her collegiate years.

Finally, middle hitter Savannah Cockrill joins the remaining offensive lineup for the Dukes. Cockrill comes to the team holding multiple All-Region honors, including a 2019 All-Metro Area Honorable Mention. She’s expected to bring enthusiasm and excitement to the team ahead of the impending season.

New lineups are likely to help balance the freshman talent with the experience of the remaining roster. Familiar faces like Marshall, Davis and Nathan are likely to return as consistent starters once again. The integration of freshmen will be determined throughout the season. However, it’s possible that the Dukes will have early debuts to see what new lineups will work.

The team has been actively introducing JMU Nation to these new freshmen and have been building team chemistry for months now as well. This is likely to pay off once the start of the season, with built trust between teammates and coaches helping to sort out any differences.

With the team on pause for any activities following multiple COVID-19 exposures and positives, the Dukes are preparing individually until further notice. However, there’s no counting out the perseverance of the team and what it can do.

CONTACT Madison Hricik at hricketm@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.
BLACK LIVES MATTER
### MADISON MARKETPLACE

Madison Marketplace is open for business, and all text-only listings are FREE! Post job listings, announcements, rentals and more using our online placement tool. Ads run two weeks online and in two print editions.

#### JOBS

**Appliance Repair**

Home Appliance Repair services anywhere near Harrisonburg and JMU. 540 208 5476 or visit www.appliancesrepairharrisonburg.com for more info.

**Drivers Wanted**

Come join the team delivering the best pizza in town! Chanello’s Pizza has been serving JMU since 1998. Drivers should be 18yo with reliable car, insurance and clean driving record. You will take cash home every night plus receive a paycheck every two weeks. Earning at least $100 a night is common while averaging $14-$20/hr. MUST be available late night is common while averaging two weeks. Earning at least $100 a night plus receive a paycheck every two weeks. Earning at least $100 a night is common while averaging $14-$20/hr. MUST be available late night is common while averaging two weeks.

**Tutor Needed**

Education major preferred to work with typical 5th grade student. 5-10 hours a week to support her educational needs. Times are flexible. Please call or text (540)480-0031.

#### SERVICES

**For Rent**

241 West View St
Starting August 2021, 7 Bed 4FB house. Super close to the Quad. Check out the listing on Zillow or JMU Off-Campus housing. JMU Alumn owners.

**Graphic Designer Wanted**

The Breeze, JMU’s award-winning student media organization, seeks a student graphic designer for print and online advertising. Job requirements include creating ads for clients, collaboration with Advertising Coordinator, page layout and design. Must be deadline oriented. Knowledge of Adobe software and previous design experience. EOE. Apply at JMU Job Link https://joblink.jmu.edu/postings/6587

#### HOUSING

**Program Support Specialist Needed**

The City of Harrisonburg is seeking applications for a full-time, benefits-eligible Program Support Specialist position within the Department of Public Transportation. To find out more and apply online, visit: https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/employment. EOE.

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### Sudoku

**Sudoku Level 1**

The Samurai of Puzzles By The Mepham Group

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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, please visit sudoku.org.uk
ONE FRIENDLY CITY
MANY DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES

TOGETHER, LET’S ALL DO OUR PART TO PROTECT THE HEALTH & WELLNESS OF HARRISONBURG

HELP US KEEP HARRISONBURG OPEN!

• WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN
• WEAR A MASK IN PUBLIC
• STAY HOME WHEN SICK
• PRACTICE DISTANCING