

The Breeze

JMU'S AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER SINCE 1922

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New graduates shape local community by staying in Harrisonburg after commencement



Harrisonburg is home to many jobs and internships to entice new graduates to stay local, according to JMU's 2020 Career Outcomes Report. Photo illustration by Cambria Lee / The Breeze

By **LUKE FREISNER**
The Breeze

Another graduation season has arrived. That often comes with more questions than answers.

With a newly acquired college degree, some may be tempted to get as far away as possible from the college town they've grown so familiar with. However, there's been a surge of students staying in Harrisonburg after graduation, and they're shaping the future of the city's ecosystem in a big way, local economic experts said.

Out of 2,085 polled graduates in the class of 2020, 734 — 35.2% — reported they continued living in the Shenandoah Valley, according to JMU's 2020 Career Outcomes Report.

The same report also highlights that more than 30 graduates were hired at Sentara Healthcare and JMU, respectively; 16-29 were hired at Amazon; and 10-15 were hired at Enterprise. Furthermore, JMU, the City of Harrisonburg and the Staunton Public Defender's Office were all local sources of internships for 2020 graduates.

Graduate students and advanced degree recipients also stayed local after completing their academic pursuits. Of the 422 participating graduates who identified their employer, 32 found jobs at JMU and 10-15 joined Harrisonburg City Public Schools.

Real world application

Peirce Macgill, assistant director at City of Harrisonburg Economic Development, said he's hoping to continue the trend of students staying in the area after graduation. Macgill, a 1996 JMU graduate, said he understands the initial appeal of moving to a big city immediately after graduating. After his time

at JMU, he relocated to Baltimore, Maryland, where he lived for 14 years before eventually feeling drawn back to Harrisonburg for the quality of life it provided him and his family, Macgill said.

Christopher Quinn, president and CEO of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce, described the "symbiotic relationship" between the university and Harrisonburg. To make sure students are prepared to take on an ever changing job market, JMU works closely with outside parties to keep course material relevant, Quinn said. The Chamber of Commerce keeps JMU up to date with what new types of businesses are coming into the city as well as new technologies future workers should be familiar with.

Additionally, Laura Yu Hickerson, the University Career Center's (UCC) associate director for employer relations, wrote in an email that the UCC attends Chamber of Commerce events to "connect with local employers and encourage them to hire JMU students."

One of the ways JMU does this is by hosting events like Techstars Startup Weekend through the Gilliam Center of Entrepreneurship, which occurred at JMU the weekend of April 8. This event aimed to give students an opportunity to pitch businesses and make networking connections, Quinn said. Macgill and Quinn both said they attended this event as a way to find and support future entrepreneurs.

"You've got new ideas, entrepreneurs ... If they have things they want to accomplish, they can stay here to get that done," Quinn said. "The resources that are here for them to access are incredible."

see **LOCAL GRADS**, page 18

JMU coaches reflect on ups and downs of the 2021-22 athletic season

By **MADISON HRICIK**
The Breeze

Sean O'Regan heads to spring practice, getting ready to help keep his team conditioned as the summer approaches. JMU's women's basketball head coach has been working with a smaller group than anticipated in the spring, but said it's allowed him to build more personal connections.

It wasn't a great season for the Dukes in 2021-22, the first losing record by JMU women's basketball in 18 seasons. Still, O'Regan was inside the Atlantic Union Bank Center, coaching his Dukes with a new look at the program in mind.

JMU men's soccer head coach Paul Zazenski spends his spring in similar fashion to O'Regan,

factoring in travel plans for recruitment domestically and internationally. Aside from the CAA ban placed on JMU in November, the men's soccer team had a considerably normal season, finishing 11-5-1. The head coach described it as a season of ups and downs, but that even more question marks filled most of his offseason.

Lauren Steinbrecher, the JMU volleyball head coach, has spent the last few months recruiting and preparing for fall camp. Having just come off spring training, she said, she's taking the time to rest and learn about new opponents the Dukes will face in the upcoming season.

Finally, Joshua Walters Sr., the JMU women's soccer head coach, said he's been in meetings,

introducing himself to new coaches in a new conference, and learning what to expect come August. After a tumultuous season, his Dukes kept themselves within one goal for two of the three top-25 ranked opponents — he said he's optimistic about what's to come.

All four coaches faced multiple bumps in the road this season. But, they had one thing in common through it all: the face of leadership remaining at all times during the 2021-22 athletic season.

"It's such a hard thing as a coach to understand the balance [between] what to say, what emotions to show and how to lead your group through such adverse times," Zazenski said.

see **COACHES CORNER**, page 24

JMU community remembers life and legacy of Bill Posey

By **KASEY TRAPUZZANO**
The Breeze

A friend, a mentor, a father figure.

That's how members of the JMU community remembered William Gary "Bill" Posey, who died on Saturday, April 30. He was 68.

"Bill and his wife did not have children, but he was still an incredible father. He was a father figure to thousands — to every generation of the Marching Royal Dukes [and] School of Music," Scott Rikkers, associate director of bands at JMU and director of the Marching Royal Dukes, said. "That kind of sums up how people perceive Bill, as their second dad at JMU, or their 'band dad.'"

Posey was a student at JMU in the 1970s, where he was a member of the Marching Royal Dukes (MRDs) as a trumpet player and later, a drum major. Posey graduated from JMU in 1979 with a degree in music performance, according to the Daily News Record, and was later hired as a staff member for the JMU School of Music, where he served from 1981 to 2012 and worked his way up through the ranks. He was the assistant director for the MRDs for 32 years and director of concert and support services for the JMU School of Music for 37 years. Posey was also the announcer for the Marching Royal Dukes for years.

see **BILL POSEY**, page 4

Online. On campus. On track.



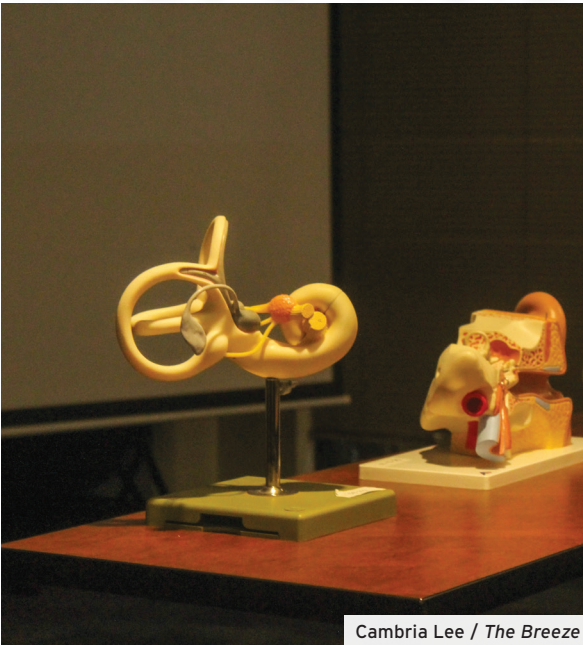
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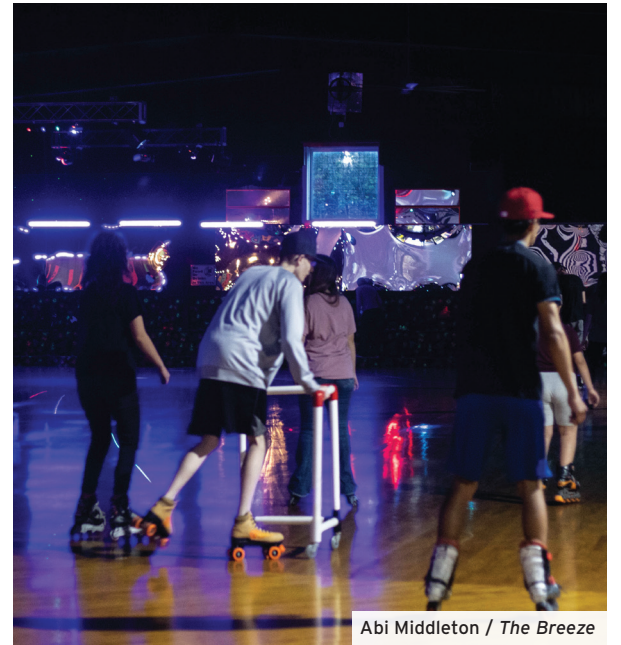
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CORRECTIONS: On page four of the last edition, Richele Hall's position was incorrect. She was the coach for Lauren Burnett's travel softball team. On page 19 of the same edition, Deborah Faulk's and Heather Coltman's positions were incorrect. Faulk is the diversity, equity and inclusion fellow for the graduate school and Coltman is the provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

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MISSION

The Breeze, the student-run newspaper of James Madison University, serves student, faculty and staff readership by reporting news involving the campus and local community. The Breeze strives to be impartial and fair in its reporting and firmly believes in First Amendment rights.

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Thursday, May 5, 2022



‘Band dad’

Bill Posey leaves an impact across generations of Dukes

from **BILL POSEY**, page 1

“His voice was iconic,” Rikkers said.

Posey officially retired from JMU in summer 2018.

Aside from his time at JMU, Posey was also an active community musician. He oversaw the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Concert Band for over 25 years, performed with other local community bands in the area and was a singer at his local church.

In 2013, the MRDs and the Office of Annual Giving created the Bill Posey Scholarship Initiative. According to the MRD website, the endowment scholarship funds go toward “a current or prospective MRD member who needs the benefit of extra funds to help with college expenses.”

According to his obituary, Posey is survived by his father, William Madison Posey; his wife, Sharon Louise Posey; special friends Rick and Becky Deloney; godchildren Sarah and William Deloney; brothers-in-law Michael Grimm and his wife, Carrie, and John H. Grimm, III.

Posey was famous for his aviator sunglasses and flip flops. His colleagues and friends say he was a “legend.”

“One of the things that makes Bill incredibly important and special to our program is that he has pretty much been with JMU since he came to college here in the early ’70s, which means he has been a part of the Marching Royal Dukes for almost its entire 50-year existence,” Rikkers said. “Because of his longevity with the program, Bill has really become a tradition with the Marching Royal Dukes and a tradition here at JMU. He’s become a tradition of his own.”

Rick Deloney (’95), the current director of marching percussion, said Posey was the reason why he came to JMU after introducing him to the MRDs. Deloney said he and Posey became friends while he was a student at JMU and grew even closer after he got the job at JMU.

“We became really close friends — more like brothers,” Deloney said. “Bill and I were so close that he and his wife, Sharon, are my children’s godparents and I actually named my son William after him.”

The two families would vacation together each summer in Outer Banks, North Carolina, and spend holidays together, Deloney said. Deloney said his favorite memories are fishing with Posey at the Outer Banks.

Rikkers, a 2003 alumnus, first met Posey while he was a graduate student.

“Immediately I knew — [I] could just tell that the band and the community respected Bill,” Rikkers said. “I could tell there was something special about that man, and over the course of the time that I’ve known him, it’s become very clear as to why he’s so celebrated and why he’s so respected.”

Rikkers said Posey was a service leader, working for the students in the MRDs and the School of Music. Posey was a “fantastic musician and educator” who cared about what’s best for his students, Rikkers said.

Rikkers said his favorite memory of Posey that “displays his selflessness and servant leadership” is from 2006, when the MRDs had a European tour in Ireland. Rikkers said the band traveled with “a lot of stuff,” including their instruments and uniforms, and were told by the airline that they could drive their truck up to

the plane to load the equipment as cargo onto the plane; Bill volunteered to drive the truck. What they weren’t told, however, is that only the truck driver could unload the equipment onto the plane, unable to get help from anybody else.

“Bill Posey, by himself, unloaded the entire truck worth of instruments and uniforms,” Rikkers said. “I don’t think that was a happy moment, per se, for Bill, but what an incredible example of his dedication to the Marching Royal Dukes and to serving the students.”

Sarah Macomber (’13, ’17), was a member of the MRDs during her time at JMU — which is when her paths first crossed with Posey. In an email to The Breeze, Macomber said she was looking for a career change in fall 2018 and reached out to Posey when she heard he was officially retiring from JMU.

“After I was offered the job and I was accepted, he welcomed me into his position with a helping heart and told me everything I needed to know to start my time here,” Macomber said. “Following in Bill Posey’s footsteps was a big deal. I knew there would be no way to live up to his legacy, and I never intended on being able to do that. Bill was a presence that couldn’t be replaced.”

Macomber said Posey was a “teddy bear” and was one of the most “nicest and caring individuals” she’d ever met.

“Truthfully, my life, and thousands of others’ lives, have been positively impacted by Bill Posey,” Macomber said. “It cannot be overstated how much kindness he brought into the world, and his kind eyes and hilarious sense of humor are sorely missed already.”



Bill Posey was the assistant director for the MRDs for 32 years and director of concert and support services for the JMU School of Music for 37 years. Breeze file photo



Bill Posey stood with the MRDs during the trumpet tradition of playing "Band of Brothers" after every football game. Courtesy of Sarah Macomber



Bill Posey has become a JMU tradition. Courtesy of Michelle Turenne

Michelle Turenne ('90) is a longtime friend of Posey involved in the creation of the Bill Posey Scholarship and a current board member of the JMU Alumni Board of Directors. During her time at JMU, she was a part of the MRDs.

Turenne said one of her favorite memories of Posey are the rubber "WWBFPD" bracelets that were sold by the MRDs — "What Would Bill Fucking Posey Do," she said.

"There's a tsunami of love and respect and grief," Turenne said. "He's an institution; he's Bill eff-ing Posey."

Dan Everard ('89), the president of MRD Alumni Chapter, said Posey impacted multiple generations of MRDs.

"He was living and breathing history of the MRDs," Everard said. "He's definitely been very influential in all our lives."

Jen Hale ('95) was a theatre major during her time at JMU but worked for Posey during college as a stage manager and on different concerts performed by the School of Music.

"I had a very different view of him than anyone who was in the marching band," Hale said. "He was just a big mentor to me ... He always had a smile and that's what I always loved."

Hale said Posey was a "constant" and was well-respected by both students and co-workers.

"Everyone in the Music Building seemed to know him and everyone respected him," Hale said. "That was my big takeaway — no matter who he was to you ... people respected him, and people looked up to him for advice."

Amy Birdsong ('01), the current assistant director for the MRDs, was a former student and later a colleague of Posey.

"He had such an impact," Birdsong said. "The fact that he knew who I was, and he had hundreds of musicians that he helped every year — no one was a number to Bill Posey ... He invested in people so well."

Birdsong said Posey was a "security blanket" for the band during her time as an MRD. Along with being assistant director for the MRDs, Posey helped run and teach the pep band and university band while Birdsong was at JMU, she said, which was made up of "a huge mass of people" with "lots of different personalities."

"[During] football and basketball, tensions can rise — but he was never that way," Birdsong said. "Bill was always just a calm — like a calming presence. We knew nothing else could go wrong because Bill was there."

After graduation, Birdsong became a band director at a high school in Henrico, Virginia, and said she kept in touch with Posey, who

would judge band competitions at her school. Birdsong said the two would reconnect over meals during the competitions.

"It was just the best thing when he ended up on my roster because I got to spend the whole day with him," Birdsong said. "It was always a wonderful part of my year when I got to reconnect with him. [He was] just happy. Happy to be on this earth, happy to be there, happy to be present in people's lives."

In 2017, Birdsong got her job at JMU as the assistant band director for the MRDs. At that point, Posey had retired from the band but was still working for the JMU School of Music. Birdsong said her path from high school band director to college band director was "not typical," but that Posey helped her transition and gave her advice during her first year working at JMU.

"Gosh, did he make me feel welcome," Birdsong said. "Bill just ... made me feel at home and was an ear for me. Man, I was thankful that he was there that first year."

After Posey retired from JMU, Birdsong said they played music together at Valley Winds, a premier adult ensemble that Posey helped co-found. Posey played the trumpet, while Birdsong played the saxophone, she said.

"[He went from my] teacher, to colleague, to, 'Hey, we're just making music together,'" Birdsong said. "It's a circle of life thing [and] Bill was an important part of that for me. It was a unique experience that he allowed me to have."

Chase Maszle, vice president of the MRD Alumni Chapter, sent an email statement to The Breeze:

"Bill Posey was a JMU legend, a father figure and a celebrity to us. Although he was soft spoken, he commanded respect from everyone around him. As an educator, he was committed to giving his students the best education possible. His humor, humility, love and spirit have Brightened the Lights of Madison — and will continue to for years to come." [sic]

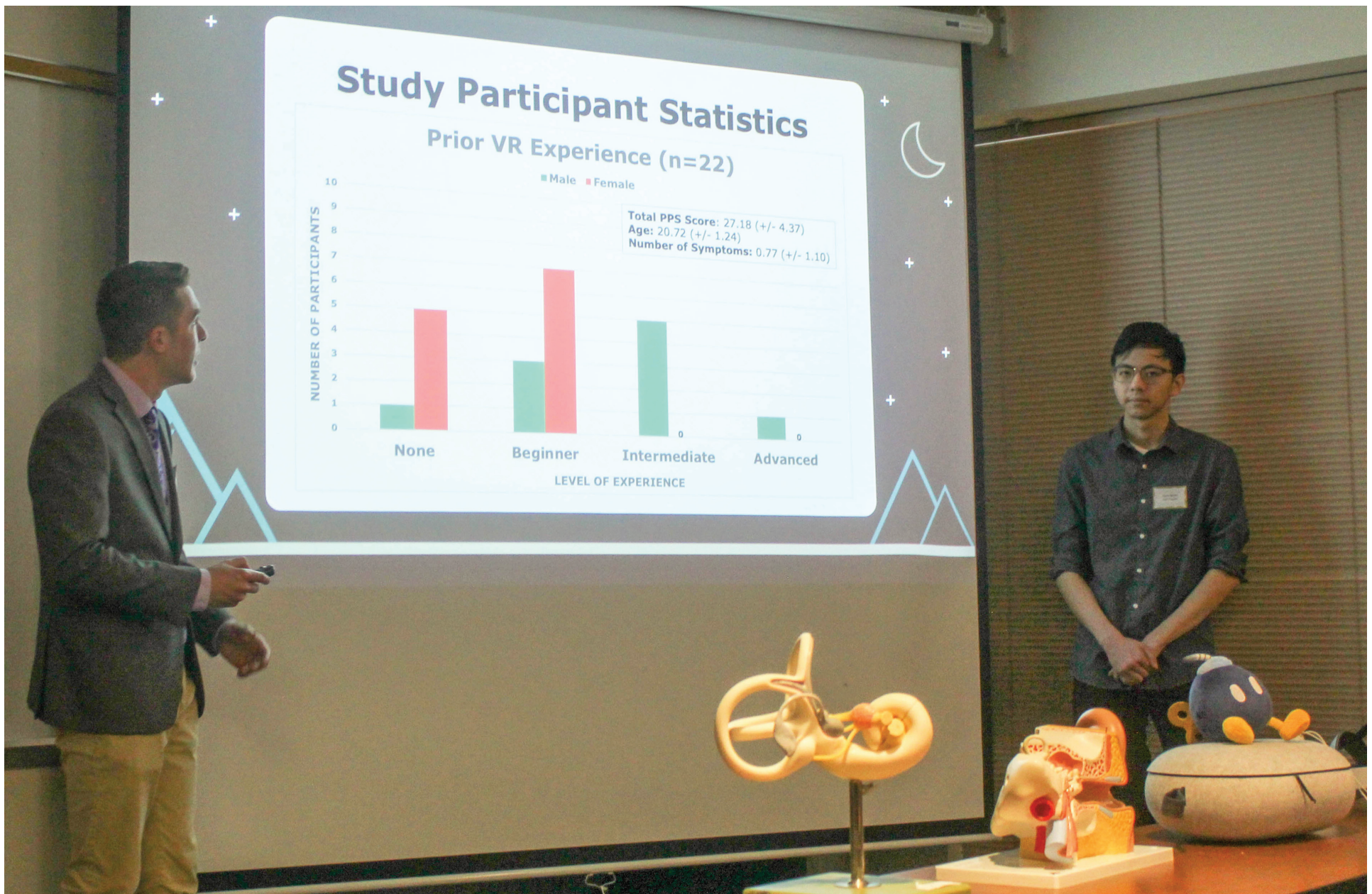
Posey will continue to be remembered through the JMU Fight Song when the MRDs sing it on game days, shouting his name between the lyrics:

"Show your Colors, Proud and True — Bill Posey! — We are the Dukes of JMU."

CONTACT Kasey Trapuzzano at breezenews@gmail.com For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.



Bill Posey was the announcer for the Marching Royal Dukes for many years. Breeze file photo



The senior team presented their research at the ISAT symposium. Cambria Lee / The Breeze

Trials in virtual reality

ISAT majors present potential research for VR-based rehab

By **MADISON HRICIK**
The Breeze

Carter Elliott, Veronica Bargerstock and Steven Nguyen sat huddled in front of a small computer in Elliott's apartment. The three senior integrated science and technology (ISAT) majors had been creating a computer program for months, and yet nothing worked.

The blue light from the computer screen was the only thing keeping them awake as the three continued pouring over their alpha and beta data, waiting for it to connect to the Oculus and appear.

Giving it another try, the three plugged in the data into the Oculus again. When it finally worked, the three erupted into pandemonium.

"It was like it was an 'Endgame' moment," Elliott said. "Everyone's cheering because it's like 'mission accomplished' ... That was a whole semester of development right there and development troubles."

Now, after two years of research and development, Elliott, Bargerstock and Nguyen are handing over their project to their junior team: Karina Howard, Robert "RJ" Look Jr., Braeden O'Quinn and Lyle Rodgers, who will continue the project next year.

"I was just intrigued by the whole thing," Rodgers said. "I just thought [it] was really interesting. I've always been fascinated by virtual reality. So, I just thought [it] would be something cool to pick up and just learn something new."

Together, the seven have completed a comprehensive study on virtual reality video games and its effect on rehabilitating vestibular dysfunction, an issue in the inner ear that affects balance. During testing, the teams focused within college-aged participants, but the eventual goal is for the study to be effective for all age ranges in a general physical therapy environment.

Bargerstock led the team's research in studying the working of the vestibular system and said the dysfunction can be caused by a wide range of issues, but most early cases studied were from head trauma.

"A way to treat [vestibular dysfunction] is, there are exercises that you can do to fix it, but not like fully fixing, it just kind of helps improve their daily life," Bargerstock said. "[We're trying] to create a more entertaining way to keep people doing their therapy."

They all shared their findings at the ISAT symposium on April 22, with

Elliott, Bargerstock and Nguyen holding a presentation while Howard, Rodgers and Look Jr. participated in a poster display to pitch the group's research to classmates, professors and researchers.

Two years of research, reading, testing and paperwork was condensed into a 25-minute speech, a 22x28-inch board and a research paper.

"I could probably give a 30 minute speech on the vestibular system and every component of it and to sum it down and make it enough for you guys to understand what it means," Bargerstock said during her portion of the team's presentation. "There's also a huge amount of development about the process of it and how long it went into and stuff. And we only touched on it for, like, four minutes maybe."

Beginning the project

Starting in fall 2020, Elliott sat in his ISAT research class, listening to one professor after another share potential research projects to pursue. He said nothing was connecting with him or sparked any interest — until professor Jonathan Spindel shared his interest in reviving a 2016 engineering project on using

virtual reality video games for vestibular rehabilitation.

"That's the one that hit me," Elliott said. "I love video games. But I also like helping people [in] kind of untraditional ways. And I was like, it's a creative project. It allows us to solve a problem ... while doing science, but also not just doing straight lab work."

Once Elliott, Bargerstock and Nguyen joined the project, they began looking at having a junior team to help with data collection, and to carry on the project. That's when Howard, O'Quinn, Look Jr. and Rodgers all found out about the research and chose to get involved.

"When I saw how it's actually going [to help] other people, I think that's when it kind of clicked," Howard said.

Bargerstock and Nguyen both found their projects in a similar manner, but Elliott was the one to take the lead on the project's development. Using the Oculus — a household virtual reality headset — the three began to look into what the research could look like and how to fund it.

Their answer was the Madison Trust Fund. The public funds gave the group roughly \$6,500 to work with, with donations still being accepted.

“We just talked about what our project was like, gave a little more [of] why we’re doing it and a little more insight of what’s happening, what’s going on,” Howard said.

When it came time to create the project, three different video game environments were made from scratch. Nguyen took charge of the environment creation, and after doing multiple rounds of testing, the team decided on a relaxing campfire scene with light music in the background. It took nearly the whole semester for Nguyen to create the three different environments — an alpha, beta and the final version.

“When making consumer products, you have to take into account that everyone of [any age] is willing to buy it,” Nguyen said, “so you have to accommodate every single person that would buy your consumer product.”

The teams created three tasks to study the new rehabilitation system, all by exercising simple motions using the X, Y and Z axes. They decided on one-step mini games, calling them “pass the rock,” “feed the fire” and “follow the firefly.”

They’ve tested college students and their reactions to these games — both with the Oculus and through physical replicas to test how each subject enjoyed the experience and whether there were different effects in the virtual reality games compared to the physical. Each participant completed a survey and were assigned to one of the three mini games, then completed a follow-up survey to share thoughts on the physical and virtual parts of the therapy exercises.

“Without [virtual reality] exercises, nobody really felt anything,” Elliott said, “and if they did, they wouldn’t really want to do it. But with VR exercises, they felt something and they wanted to do — it’s not boring. It was awesome.”

With Elliott, Bargerstock and Nguyen graduating, the junior team has the opportunity to learn from their research and the senior group’s findings and continue to

evolve this research in their own way. Look Jr. said the seniors were responsible for the more “creative” elements of the research, such as the games selected and environment used, but now these four juniors can take their own ideas and see it in reality.

The four juniors plan to submit a request for a JMU-sanctioned Institutional Review Board (IRB) this summer to do another round of research testing. They said they’re interested in expanding the number of games available to use and want to start their formal testing earlier than the senior team did.

“We’ll fill out to get started now and get most of the stuff we don’t want to have to do in the fall [now],” Look Jr. said. “It would be very beneficial so we can have more time to do the study and try to find people to do it over the course of more time.”

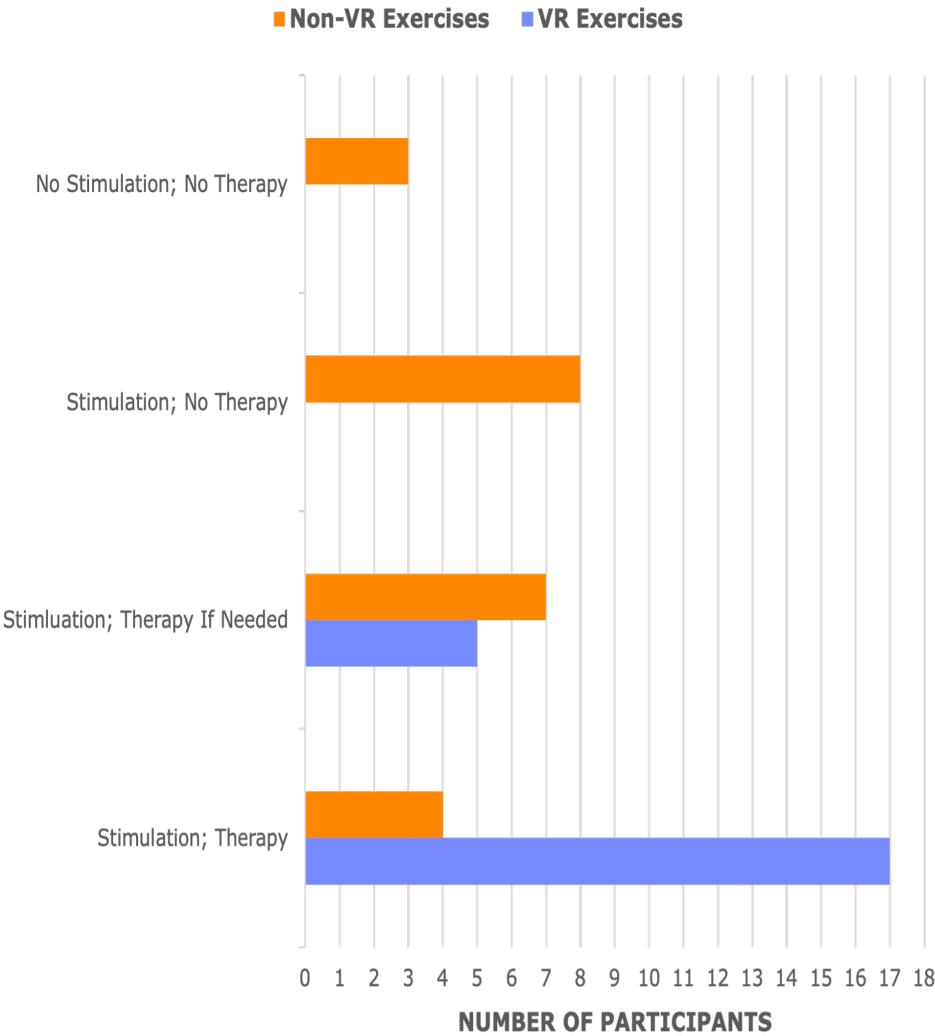
Once Elliot, Bargerstock and Nguyen walk across the graduation stage, Look Jr., Howard, Rodgers and O’Quinn will begin their search for a new junior team to continue the cycle of researchers and the project moving forward. It’ll be a few more years before the research can be used in everyday physical therapy, so the junior team said they’re willing to take their time with a new set of data and continue to hand down the project each year until it’s ready.

For now, though, the focus is to enjoy the summer and dive into more research.

“We’ll be in contact with [the junior team] when we leave, but it’s not gonna be as easy as seeing you on campus,” Elliott said. “So just kind of getting things nailed down, helping them get ideas out on the board for what they want to do. And then kind of helping them like okay, do this, try doing this first and do this, kind of giving them a little bit of a timeline.”

CONTACT Madison Hricik at breezesports@gmail.com. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.

Stimulation During Therapy vs. Desire



During the testing, the senior team compared data between non-VR and VR exercises. Courtesy of Carter Elliott



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Return to routine

Seniors appreciate in-person grad ceremonies as pandemic subsides

By **SARAH FOSTER**
The Breeze

As graduation approaches next week, some JMU seniors look forward to commencement ceremonies that return to normalcy.

JMU graduation ceremonies begin May 12 and continue through May 14. In an email to The Breeze, Ginny Cramer, assistant director of media relations and deputy spokesperson for JMU, said more than 4,000 graduates and 23,000 guests will be attending the graduation ceremonies across all three days. The majority of the events will occur at the Atlantic Union Bank Center (AUBC), per JMU's spring 2022 commencement page, without mandatory COVID-19 precautions for attendees.

"It's a little relieving," Ethan Dagdagan, a graduating health sciences major, said. "It's a little ... less restrictive than it was before, so it's kind of nice to see that things are getting better."

According to the JMU Stop The Spread dashboard, the University Health Center (UHC) has recorded 700 cases of COVID-19 among students and staff since Jan. 3. This total excludes self-reported cases. The seven-day moving average of daily positive cases recorded by the UHC on April 28 was 1.14, compared to the highest average recorded for the spring 2022 semester, 28.14 daily positive cases, on Jan. 28.

As for the greater Harrisonburg City and Rockingham County communities, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have designated both areas as having a low COVID-19 community level as of April 28, which recommends masks for those who have symptoms, exposure to COVID-19 or a positive test.

With the implementation of a mask-optional policy for most campus spaces beginning April 11, Cramer said JMU is applying the same policy for commencement events.

"Visitors and participants at all ceremonies may still prefer to wear a mask, a decision we fully support," Cramer said. "We want to create an environment where everyone is supported in making the decision that is best for them."

Graduating senior Carla Langenbucher, an international affairs major, said COVID-19 isn't a major concern for her graduation.

"I honestly didn't even really think about it," Langenbucher said. "I've been around a bunch of people lately because of mask mandates going down and classes being semi-normal again, so I guess I don't really feel that scared."

Additionally, Cramer said guests will be able to "easily sit socially distanced for the four smaller ceremonies" inside of the AUBC, which are the ceremonies for the College of Visual and Performing Arts, the College of Integrated Science and Engineering, the College of Education and the College of Science and Math. Those four ceremonies will have approximately between 1,100 and 1,800 guests each, with the larger ceremonies for the College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business and the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences expecting about 4,000 to 6,300 guests each. The AUBC will have "nearly 7,000 seats available" for guests, Cramer said.

While some seniors said they appreciate the opportunity to graduate and celebrate in-person, some also expressed an interest in extra precautions.

"I think it would be nice if maybe [JMU]

provided tests before and after graduation or something, just in case people are worried about that," Langenbucher said. "[JMU] should be prepared for students to want or need extra testing, especially since people are going to be traveling after graduation."

Graduating senior Kyler Smith, a psychology major, said she's concerned for more vulnerable populations during graduation ceremonies.

"[The pandemic] isn't over," Smith said. "I know we as students don't have to wear [masks] anymore, but considering people are having their families coming, which means older individuals ... I feel like there should be more precautions, and maybe they should be telling people to wear masks."

Graduating senior Matthew Pak, a computer information systems major, said some of his family members won't be in attendance. His grandparents will "stay home," Pak said, because it's more dangerous for older individuals to get sick.

Smith said for the commencement ceremonies, she's balancing the desire for caution with the desire to celebrate.

"I think it's cool that we're even getting a graduation, because I know previously [the] class of 2020 didn't really get to do much ... but [we] still got to be careful," Smith said. "Whenever you have large groups of people ... something's bound to spread."

CONTACT Sarah Foster at foste4sc@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.



Masks are optional for visitors and participants at graduation. Breeze file photo

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From someone who didn't appreciate the extra exercise.

An **"it-must-be-inflation"** dart to JMU's graduation robes for being so expensive.

From someone who is still a broke college student for one more week.

Addicted to tech

Student overuse of technology results in poor in-person communication and social skills



ORIANA LUKAS | The Breeze

Technology is everywhere and used for everything. When walking around campus or in the dining halls, many students are tuned into their devices. Technology is used to communicate for work, school, entertainment, research and more. On paper, this sounds like a wonderful advancement that enhances daily living. However, when thinking about how rapidly technology has advanced and how people have become so engrossed into their devices, various problems surface.

The first computer that was used for public use was invented in 1974 by a small firm named MITS, also known as Micro Instrumentation and Telemetry Systems, according to Britannica. It was called the Altair and though it was popular among computer hobbyists, it had low commercial use. Computers weren't mass produced for the public until the Apple II, the Tandy Radio Shack TRS-80 and the Personal Electronic Transactor were created in 1977.

The first flip phone was created 22 years later in 1996. The size and convenience became incredibly popular and with the blink of an eye, everyone had one.

By 2007, technology had advanced so much that Steve Jobs presented the first iPhone to the Macworld conference, according to an article from Wired. After presenting all the accessibility features this phone had, it was approved and put on the market six months later. These were a hit, with Apple selling 270,000 iPhones the first weekend they were

put on the shelves.

Other companies like Samsung started mass-producing smartphones to keep up with this fast-paced market. By 2010 the original flip phones massively declined in popularity as smartphones took over, according to NBC News.

When looking at the timeline of how technology has advanced from the first computer, it's remarkable. Consumers upgraded from using desktop computers at home for a few tasks, to having portable phones that could make texts and phone calls, to high-tech laptops and smartphones that access everything with a few clicks.

Peter Lunenfeld is a professor of design, media arts and digital humanities at the University of California, Los Angeles. According to a Pew Research Center article, Lunenfeld said that with every advancement technology makes, a separate issue arises.

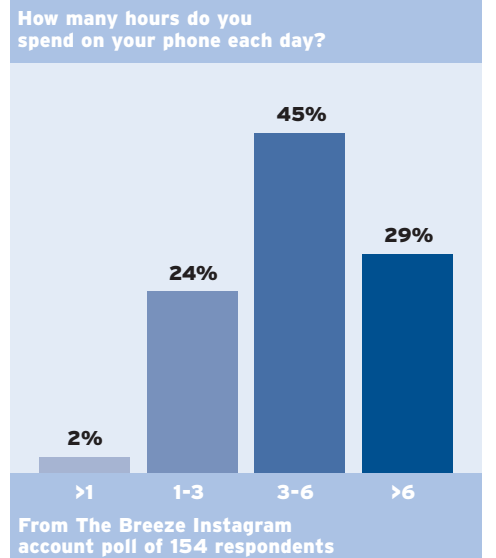
"We will use technology to solve the problems the use of technology creates, but the new fixes will bring new issues," Lunenfeld said. "Every design solution creates a new design problem, and so it is with the ways we have built our global networks."

With technology becoming more accessible to the younger generations, more problems arise as developing children and teens succumb to the addiction of technology. Gen Z spends an average 7.2 hours on their phones each day, according to the L.A. Times. That's one-third of the day spent solely on phones, not including other devices. This increase in screen time contributes to the issues of low academic performance, lack of attention, low creativity, delays in language development, physical inactivity and social issues.

Another issue is the rise in social media. According to Pew Research Center, 69% of adults and 81% of teens use social media. While social media can be a convenient platform to connect with family and friends by sharing pictures, videos and comments, it's turned into something much darker — many people seek validation through social media and being exposed to false information,



A majority of students report using their cellphone for more than 3 hours a day. Cambria Lee / The Breeze



according to MIT Management.

There's also been a drastic change in how tech developers view their own platforms. According to "The Social Dilemma", Jaron Lainer, computer scientist and virtual pioneer, said they initially created something great that made online connection crucial for daily tasks, but now it's generated another problem of manipulation and true privacy.

"We've created a world in which online connection has become primary," Lainer said in the film. "Especially for younger generations. And yet, in that world, any time two people connect, the only way it's financed is through a sneaky third person who's paying to manipulate those two people. So we've created an entire global generation of people who were raised within a context with the very meaning of communication, the very meaning of culture, is manipulation."

Peter Korenko, a sophomore at JMU, gives a more positive outlook on technology usage.

"I spend an average of six hours daily on my phone," Korenko said. "Though, I think technology has a dual effect on people, I mainly see a large step towards rapid innovation in communications."

While there are both positives and negatives to rapid technological innovation, it's necessary to not lose touch with what's important in life. JMU is a place to connect with others, whether it's in class, clubs or organizations. These available resources to socialize are being overshadowed by the addiction to devices and face-to-face communication will decrease, negatively impacting students' social skills.

CONTACT Oriana Lukas at lukasok@dukes.edu. For more editorials regarding the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the opinion desk on Instagram and Twitter @Breeze_Opinion.

Limitations of digitization

Digitization of literature poses questions regarding digital preservation, restriction of future academia



EVAN WEAVER | twenty four seven

JMU has two main libraries. Carrier Library on Main Campus is the oldest library at JMU, which was originally built in 1940, while the newer Rose Library provides a study space on East Campus. JMU also houses a Music Library in addition to the Educational Technology and Media Center. The university features rare, archival material among each of its libraries as well as an extensive digital collection.

When browsing the bookshelves in these libraries or ascending through the stacks, some may wonder how often these books are actually used by students and faculty. Considering the large footprint of Carrier and Rose libraries, these books must warrant taking up valuable space within them that could be used to expand existing student study space.

Furthermore, with the transition toward reading digitally, both for pleasure and academics, experienced by many students who already use digital textbooks as a more convenient and, oftentimes, less expensive way to study, it may seem more efficient to entirely digitize JMU's library collections. However, the process of converting print books into digital documents can leave out important details that shed light on the historical context in which print books were published, as well as being time-consuming and sometimes unreliable.

Books as historical artifacts

Bethany Nowvskie is the Dean of Libraries and a professor of English at JMU. Before coming to JMU, Nowvskie was the executive director of the Digital Library Federation, an organization focused on the advancement of research and digital library technology.

Nowvskie discussed the importance of maintaining a robust collection of print books, especially those published in the 19th and 20th centuries and earlier, as they're historical artifacts that reflect the times in which they were created.

"It's really important what is embedded in the physical form of a book ... that have within them variance," Nowvskie said when referring to her collection of copies of Victorian poet Algernon Charles Swinburne's 1866 edition of "Poems and Ballads." This edition, due to its inclusion of then-taboo topics, resulted in a sudden switch in publishers and ultimately inconsistent printing. Nowvskie explained that she'd never come across two identical copies of the 1866 edition of "Poems and Ballads" and that these discrepancies indicate the nonstandard circumstances in which the book was published.

Digitizing print books reduces them to

a single dimension with which the reader can know the author, their expression and its context. Emily Dickinson, a renowned 19th-century American poet, is known for her uses of dashes of irregular length to control the pace at which the reader reads her poems. However, the conversion of Dickinson's poetry into a digital format has resulted in dashes of equal length, diminishing Dickinson's expression. The same is true of her contemporary, Walt Whitman, whose famous collection of poems "Leaves of Grass" was published numerous times under the same title, yet included different poems each time.

When discussing the historical value of older books, Nowvskie mentioned the fire that destroyed some of the University of Virginia's (U.Va.) library collection in 1895. She described how after this event, the U.Va. appealed to Virginia residents to send some of their book collections to supplement what had been lost. Because of this, some of U.Va.'s collection now hosts books with the notes of their original owners. These are details that can never be replicated digitally; these books have been steeped in history and are artifacts of the lives of average people who lived centuries ago.

By digitizing all books, a book is limited to a singular version of it and therefore removes a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the text and the author. Future scholarship regarding a text is also limited if the scope of what that text can be is narrowed down to one particular copy or edition. Though the study of literature is well-developed, room must be left for future generations to discover something new.

Problems with digital conversion

Many books published hundreds of years ago have been left behind or become worn down with time — and digital books are no exception. With the massive amount of digital content flooding the internet every second, if a document isn't considered worth passing on, it can get lost. Moreover, with browser updates, servers being taken offline and the corruption of data, digital books may fare worse than printed ones over time.

"It's not just the physical space that is a factor, it's the stability of a print object versus a digital object," Nowvskie said. "We don't really know how to preserve digital objects indefinitely."

Though technology has improved and scanning books into digital formats has become easier, the process of digitizing all of literature hasn't been streamlined, nor is it viable at this scale. This is demonstrated by the ongoing efforts of Google through its Google Books program.

Google Books, launched in 2004, began



As libraries begin to digitalize much of their collections, academics are concerned for the limitations it places on future research. Cambria Lee / *The Breeze*

as an initiative to convert the books of the world's libraries into a digital format. Though this program seemed straightforward at the get-go and would presumably allow many books to be more easily translated, searched and accessed, it became apparent that the task would be burdensome upon execution. In 2019, 15 years after its inception, Google Books celebrated its conversion of 40 million unique titles only 31% of the total number of unique titles that have been published according to Google's estimate of 130 million.

The future of libraries at JMU

When asked whether JMU Libraries' physical collection should be digitized, Nowvskie mentioned its relatively compact size when compared to other schools, as well as JMU's transition to a more research-active R-2 designation. She also said JMU Libraries was able to achieve a catalog that wasn't bloated by an excess of unused books through a collection development committee which has representatives of different disciplines at JMU that's constantly looking at JMU Libraries collection.

"This library, over the decades, has actually done a splendid job at fine-tuning its collection to use ... we actually have quite a small collection," Nowvskie said. "It was very tightly curated over the years to connect to the kind of research

that was happening at JMU and the kind of teaching that was happening at JMU."

JMU also intends to renovate Carrier Library in the coming years. Nowvskie noted that Carrier Library has many areas that need improvement, including updating accessibility and improving protection of its rare books collections. To guide the renovation of Carrier Library, JMU Libraries has been incorporating concerns and suggestions from students. According to student feedback groups conducted by JMU Libraries, Nowvskie said, students' main concern was a hope that JMU not tamper with the classic appeal of Carrier Library or make it a "soulless, bookless library."

The optimal library experience curates all the tools at its disposal to inspire people to learn more about the past and encounter new ideas. These tools include the physical space and printed books as well as digital material. Finding the balance between digital and physical is important to maintaining libraries' relevance in the digital age and to preserve our historical heritage.

CONTACT EvanWeaver@breezeopinion@gmail.com. For more editorials regarding the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the opinion desk on Instagram and Twitter @Breeze_Opinion.

Quad seal superstition

Student generated myth threatening to delay graduation is proved wrong



JILLIAN CAREY | jillian cares

At the bottom of the Quad, before the Forbes Center Tunnel in the intersection where several paths cross, sits the University Seal inscribed with JMU's Alma Mater. JMU's website says students avoid stepping on the seal as a sign of respect for our Alma Mater. A list of JMU's traditions suggests that students believe stepping on the seal to be a harbinger of bad luck, especially during finals week.

Not listed on JMU's website, known

solely by word-of-mouth, is this: Legend has it that if you step on the seal, you won't graduate on time.

Dave Barnes, the director of the University Unions on campus, founded the Madison Society in 2010. The Madison Society develops and supports the creation of positive traditions on campus, including but not limited to: the Spirit Rock, "Smooch the Pooch" (where people kiss the Duke Dog Statue for good luck), the All Together One awards every spring and the words of Madison in the Forbes Center Tunnel — "knowledge will forever

govern ignorance" — which used to be bare concrete.

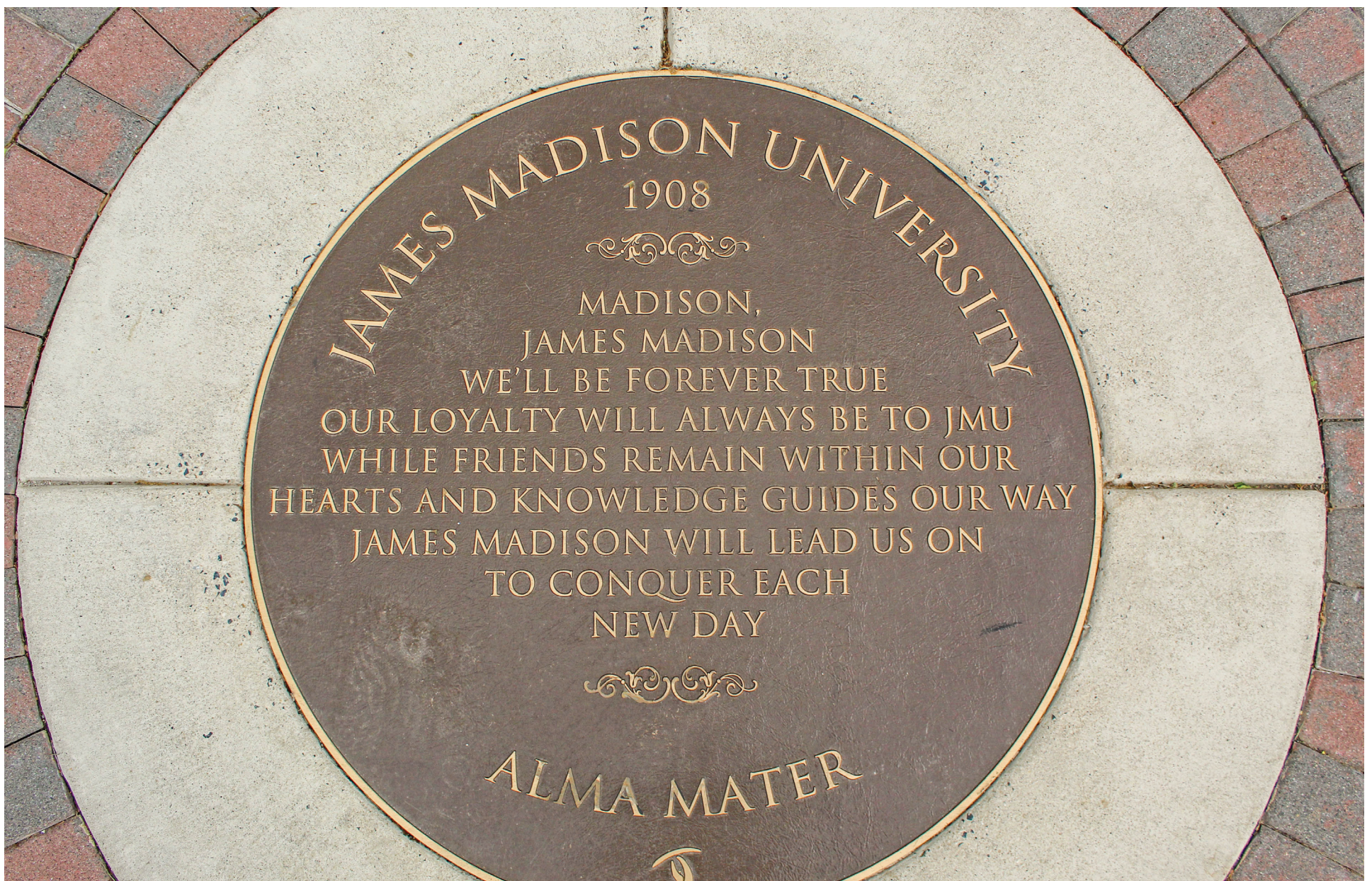
Around 2016, Barnes said in an email, the Madison Society, with support from the Alumni Office, placed the University Seal on the Quad. The group discussed among themselves and polled JMU's students at the time to decide that they wanted to create a tradition of respecting the seal and what it stands for.

The quote on the seal says, "While friends remain within our hearts and knowledge guides our way, James Madison will lead us on to conquer each new day."

Students are meant to walk around the seal out of respect for what it proclaims: the pride of being a Duke.

Barnes had never heard of the graduation myth. It seems to be a superstition born out of respect for the seal, which developed into a fear of bad luck should one step on it, which evolved even further into the superstition many students fear today.

Of course, not everyone knows about this superstition. Plenty of people step on the seal every day, who presumably go on to graduate just fine.



But for those who've heard of the myth and lived in fear of stepping on the seal, I'm here to put a stop to this rumor once and for all.

It was February of my freshman year. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning, I made the trek from Shorts Hall — the little-known Lake Area dorm right beside Eagle Hall — all the way to Anthony-Seeger Hall. I'd managed to steer clear of the seal thus far, mostly because I saw other students routinely avoiding it, but it was just days earlier that I'd learned our reason for sidestepping it. A classmate had told me about the myth on our walk to class.

Whether by ignorance, lack of attention or the general sluggishness that came with being awake before 10 a.m., I managed to forget the myth entirely and plant the upper half of my left foot squarely on the seal. I leapt back to safety, horror-struck, but the damage was already done. I could feel where I'd stepped on the seal like a brand on my foot.

Several times over the years, I thought that horrible myth might come true. My sophomore year, my mental health tanked so dramatically that I debated dropping out. But I chugged through it and refound my love for JMU just before the start of the pandemic sent us all back home.

Not to worry — I was getting good grades and was ahead on my credit requirements. Too ahead, I would learn my senior year. I was all set to graduate a semester early, which was something I was wholly unprepared for. It hit me in that moment: If I graduated early, technically, I wouldn't be graduating on time.

For various reasons, but mostly because I couldn't bear to start my real life any earlier than I'd planned to, I decided to

stay for an extra semester and take classes just for fun. I still had one graduation requirement, after all, which was the zero-credit, end-of-semester SMAD assessment.

Then came the last — and biggest — scare. With none of my classes acting as graduation requirements, financial aid would no longer cover them. My options were limited: I could scrounge up the money to pay for the semester, or I could drop out of school for a full refund.

The only problem was, I needed to stay enrolled to complete my last graduation requirement. Otherwise, I would have to stay an extra semester just to take a zero credit class, and I couldn't bear to start my real life any later than I'd planned, either.

Ultimately, I managed to find the money and complete my last, unnecessary semester at JMU. Despite the hardships of mental health, poor class-planning, financial struggles and the ever-lurking knowledge that I'd once stepped on the seal, I'm set to graduate in just 10 days.

At this point in time, I'm passing all of my classes. I've taken the last of my final exams. The stars are aligned and it looks like nothing can stop me now.

Let my story act as proof that you can step on the seal and still graduate exactly on time, that is unless some absurd tragedy befalls me and I don't make it to graduation. Otherwise, I made it.

Dukes, fear not. If you accidentally step on the seal, you can still graduate just fine. Avoid it not because of a superstition, but out of respect for what it represents.

CONTACT Jillian Carey at careyjc@dukes.jmu.edu. For more editorials regarding the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the opinion desk on Instagram and Twitter @Breeze_Opinion.



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FOLLOW THE MANIA



TAG, YOU'RE IT

A call to action for the students, faculty and staff of JMU

Jordan Zapp, JMU senior

Letter to the Editor

As the recent Climate Survey has verified, Black, Indigenous, POC, LGBTQIA+, disabled students, faculty and staff at JMU continue to face discrimination, exclusion, regular micro-aggressions and isolation.

This is not just a JMU issue. In light of the infamous summer of 2020 and rise in public support of the Black Lives Matter movement, institutions all over the country were forced to reconcile their lack of action in addressing a long history of racism. JMU has dedicated itself to actively and transformatively addressing diversity, equity, inclusion, justice and accessibility (DEIJA) through their 2020-26 strategic priorities. This was stated in 2020 through JMU's Academic Affairs Strategic Plan: "The Academic Affairs anti-racist and antidiscrimination agenda is fully articulated and drives all other strategic goals."

The initiative our class, the Anti-Racist GenEd Project and Anti-Racist in GenEd, created not only helps JMU fulfill its goals

but, if done correctly, will keep these goals from being a performative and temporary act of "allyship" that have become all too common across academia. Playing "catch-up" with the lives of students and the very real threats to them reflect the lack of care those students receive from their universities. It also undermines decades of work already being done by staff and students in those communities. However, through the advocacy of faculty and students, this moment provided a transformative opportunity for JMU students on campus. A project was introduced by a group of faculty dedicated to social justice, and thus, the Anti-Racist GenEd Project was born. These faculty members risked careers and went against institutional pushback, creating a space of possibility for students who desired and needed to be involved in institutional change. Together, we created an initiative to begin that change.

The Teaching Anti-Racism/Anti-

Discrimination in GenEd initiative (TAG), was generated by a community of passionate students and faculty driven by the need and desire to make JMU a safer place for historically marginalized and minoritized students on campus. The Anti-Racist GenEd Project, which was created in the summer and began fall semester of 2021, utilized works by Black and Indigenous scholars and revolutionaries, scholars of Color, LGBTQ individuals and diverse experiences by students of JMU. We also looked to other universities that are implementing similar initiatives. Over the course of the semester, we focused on design justice and evaluated several models to promote anti-racism in GenEd curriculums. Ultimately, the TAG emerged as a feasible and effective option.

The TAG initiative is an intervention to promote curriculum which centers DEIJA issues in the General Education program at JMU. This initiative encourages critical literacy in examinations of power, privilege, intersectionality, and oppression.

By highlighting the General Education program, students of every major have the opportunity to engage with these topics in the context of the GenEd class discipline. A class can be TAGged in the GenEd program by going through a vetting process using criteria with specific learning outcomes and measurable goals. These outcomes and goals focus on applying critical thinking skills towards systems of power and oppression. If a class qualifies for the TAG, meaning it has been vetted and meets the criteria, it will be TAGged as such. This would allow students who are enrolling in GenEd courses to know that a tagged class will address DEIJA issues as they relate to the discipline. Our dream for the TAG is to expand critical literacy related to systems of oppression throughout the university, eventually in every department.

see TAG, page 16

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from TAG, page 14

Ideally, the vetting process would involve collaboration between the General Education Council and a Student Advisory Board to ensure student voice is heard and centered. Criteria for a TAGged class are a baseline for discussion and framework for participants. On our website, we outline a potential rubric which highlights course content, pedagogy, class engagement and participation in a learning community for faculty involved.

Our progress would not have been possible without collaboration from outside faculty and staff, including the General Education Council. Over the course of the fall semester, the TAG initiative was presented to and discussed with the GenEd Council on numerous occasions. Their support, feedback, and collaboration were paramount to our finalized ideas, as they provided us with information about institutional systems

initiatives every day. Students and faculty of those communities who participated in the class bore the brunt of emotional labor as ideas were opposed by institutional bodies — in many cases, asking us to justify this initiative in dehumanizing ways.

The TAG is also important for faculty. As activist, scholar and teacher bell hooks asserts, there is no neutral education, and the classroom is a space of transformative possibility. This is facilitated by teachers. The TAG offers faculty an opportunity to engage in teaching as a form of activism. It asks them to critically examine their pedagogy and content, and to consider ways their classroom either dehumanizes students or empowers them in their humanity and community. It also asks faculty to consider their relationship to power in the classroom. The TAG initiative encourages collaboration between teacher and student, whether it be a discussion on class norms or willingness to listen and consider content that may cause harm.

**"TAG itself is just a starting place.
There is still so much work to be
done."**

Jordan Zapp

JMU Senior

and methods which we would not have otherwise known. Our collaboration continues this semester as we attempt to make the TAG a reality in the coming years. The TAG initiative was also presented at the Diversity Conference in March of 2022, wherein we received further feedback from stakeholders.

The TAG is a student-driven and student-centered process. It means that, ideally, students cannot pass through JMU's General Education program without critically engaging with ideas of privilege, oppression, and intersectionality that inform our identities and experiences. It means that JMU students enter the world post-graduation with the language and understanding that creates a better, safer world for oppressed communities. It means that the JMU community is committed to actively fighting against oppressive systems by providing the tools students need. While students are a central aspect of the initiative, we understand and acknowledge that this work is not easy. This is, of course, by design.

With that in mind, another integral part of this process was the pre-existing work of students and faculty who are part of historically marginalized and minoritized groups on campus, who engage in anti-racism, anti-oppression and DEIJA

The TAG is an act of bravery for all involved. This work is not easy, and there are many barriers to success. Even the TAG itself is just a starting place. There is still so much work to be done. As a student of our class affirmed, "We are putting new paint on an old ship, and we need a new ship."

Ultimately, the TAG is one step forward. Most of us on the project are graduating this May and will not be here to see the TAG come to fruition. We encourage the student body to continue this momentum, continue to get involved and continue to hold this university accountable for all it claims to do and be. If you are a white student, as I am, understand the great pains this system takes to blind us from the realities of discrimination. Many of us have the great privilege of attending classes that already incorporate DEIJA.

We must face the discomfort that comes with these conversations, learning how we have enacted harm on others as a result of indoctrination into white supremacy and then seek to repair that harm. Growth is uncomfortable, but the reward is great. To all JMU students, this is your education, our world, and we must step into it ready to meet its ugly parts. We cannot only imagine a better world, but actively create it in community with one another. With love and hope, we pass this to you.

Sincerely,
Jordan Zapp
JMU senior



Smooth skating

Funky's Skate Center reopens after explosion

By FILIP DE MOTT
The Madison Business Review

When the owner of Funky's Skate Center, Joanne Wills, was 17 years old, a fortune-teller envisioned "many wheels" in her future.

Now, "everytime I'm cleaning wheels I think of that woman," Wills said, laughing.

What the seer didn't predict was the Miller Circle explosion that rocked Harrisonburg in fall 2020. Beyond the complete devastation of a strip mall — which housed many popular community hubs — it left Funky's in partial rubble and Wills in considerable debt.

"I didn't really believe that Funky's had gotten damaged until I saw the pictures — that definitely hurt," Maryssa Mottesheard, a manager who was to come in on that morning, said. "We had no idea what the future was going to be."

Extinguishing hopes

Prior to the explosion, COVID-19 was laying waste to the rink in a different sense.

As with most other businesses, Funky's was forced to close at the pandemic's start, only reopening for reserved parties in September of 2020 — such as one that was scheduled for Oct. 17, the day of the blast. This strategy

seemed enough to "keep the wolf from the door," Wills said in a 2020 interview.

Beyond financial issues, however, the pandemic also brought about the makings of an existential crisis for the family business. Wills wondered if anyone would even want to come to a roller rink, given the future uncertainties behind COVID-19. Moreover, seeing loved ones touched personally by the disease, she saw it as a hazard: "You don't want to do that to your family just to make money."

Instead, hemorrhaging money, Wills dropped the insurance on the Funky's building for that year, despite a history of always having it.

"I've never ever used insurance, if something happens I'll just pay for it," Wills remembers thinking: "I didn't expect it to blow up."

No one did. The explosion, which occurred one Saturday morning and would be determined by the city as caused by a natural gas leak, brought down Funky's ceiling, shattered the windows, cracked its walls and produced a myriad of costly electrical issues.

It also left no one to blame and, therefore, no one to help pay for the damage. Especially with the statute of limitations for pursuing compensation coming up this October, any hope for reparations may be quickly waning.

Without insurance, Wills considered

moving on from Funky's, leaving it to be a relic of the city's past. However, community outreach — such as that of the local Roller Derby team — and family encouragement created some motivation to push forward.

"It wasn't really my choice, but I definitely tried to push them to reopen," Callum Wills, Joanne's son and a manager at Funky's, said.

The team helped set up a GoFundMe page, which Mottesheard estimated provided Funky's with \$2,000-\$3,000. While helpful, it wasn't enough to cover repairs, costing around \$220,000.

One stroke of luck did bring in some slight profit during the overhaul. While everything else was damaged, the solar panels on Funky's roof remained intact. The produced electricity, unused by the rink, was sold to the grid.

Still, to save on expenditures, Joanne — with help from family members, Mottesheard, skating enthusiasts and other volunteers — tried to do much of the clean-up and repairs independently, apart from hiring an electrician. According to WHSV, one could find her there almost daily, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., working on mending the property. The work included moving debris, cutting out old ceiling installations and installing new flooring, Callum said.

"Everything, pretty much, here is updated," Mottesheard said, recalling having to replace everything from walls to doors. She looks at the change optimistically: "This place needed an update and I think it's much better now that it did have that."

Boom in business

Before its refurbishment, Joanne described Funky's — founded in 1974 — as reminiscent of its original decade. When she took over in 2008, she was excited to enhance the facility.

"I was full of energy and enthusiasm," Joanne said, "but then your business gets going and to do stuff like that, you obviously got to close down."

In a way, the forced closure allowed for much needed upgrades. If one walks in now, they'll be greeted by multi-colored LED lights, artistic patterns on the walls — some of which were the work of JMU students — and hundreds of feet gliding on modernized woodwork. Unseen by customers are updates to the electrics of the building,

which Joanne said is important improvements to avoid potential fires. The Harrisonburg

community appears to have greeted the November opening enthusiastically, with business keeping the family on a grind.

"It was really busy this year," Wills said. "Too busy, actually. It was a bit too crazy at the beginning."

At the start, Funky's saw a surge in younger customers, around age 12, many of whom had other motivations than just skating. Joanne recalls a fight breaking out, as well as public scenes. This prompted her to lift the age to 16 for night skating, unless one came with a parent. Initially, there was some concern over the financial consequences.

"It did hurt, and it might hurt over the summer a bit," Joanne said. Yet, "in a way, it ended up [being] a lot nicer place, [with] a lot nicer atmosphere to it."

Full of families, college kids and couples, many of the clients are recurring members of a familiar community. Cherrie Davis, a customer who comes every other week with her husband to meet up with friends, enjoys the new design which she said reminds her of a childhood skate rink.

Skaters weren't the only ones to shift age — so did the staff. Given the labor shortage that's lingered one in the aftermath of the pandemic, Joanne began hiring younger workers and had to get rid of the snack bar, which usually would require two to three employees.

Another change came in the form of a slight price hike of about a dollar on everything, especially to help cover the rebuilding costs. Nonetheless, Mottesheard notes that, "we're still one of the cheapest things to do around here."

While Funky's recent popularity has given Joanne hope that they'll be able to manage the debt caused by the explosion, the summer months tend to be more inactive for the rink, something that Callum already sees happening. But no one seems worried this time.

"Everytime you think it's the end of the world," Wills reflected, "it's just little hiccups in the road of life."

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Callum Wills works with his mom, Joanne, in running Funky's Skate Center. Abi Middleton / The Breeze



Stick around

Locals, business owners and JMU graduates reflect on impact of staying in the 'Burg

from **LOCAL GRADS**, page 1

Student stories

A product of these resources, along with working for hours on end in a hot attic, is Collegiate Customs. Collegiate Customs is a T-shirt company that allows students to design custom shirts for clubs, organizations and Greek life. What started as a side-hustle for JMU alumnus Chris Ashley, an economics major and music industry minor who graduated in 2017, and his brother has now become his most successful endeavor, he said. Ashley recalled seeing other members of his graduating class in the College of Business (COB) going off to do consulting jobs in Washington, D.C. Although he said he wasn't entirely sure what he had wanted to do at the time, it definitely wasn't that.

After making some connections selling T-shirts on the side with his brother, the two were able to get in contact with suppliers and distributors and learn what the best hardware was to use. Having come to the realization there was real potential, Ashley said they decided to make it a reality. Ashley said setting up shop in Harrisonburg was "the most logical decision."

Small businesses and start-ups have a great system of support from the Harrisonburg community, Ashley said. As a company that designs custom gear with college students as its primary customer base, being in close proximity to campus allows for almost every order to arrive much faster than its competitors. Collegiate Customs' proximity to Interstate-81 also allows for their orders from suppliers to be consistently fulfilled within one day. Ashley noted the Valley's high refugee population allows for a well-rounded and diverse workplace environment of different backgrounds, identities and skills — circumstances he said influenced his decision to start his company in Harrisonburg.

Sydney Thier, a media arts and design (SMAD) and interdisciplinary studies major who graduated from JMU in 2018, moved away for a few months before returning to Harrisonburg. She said she felt compelled to continue her work locally because of the community's vast networking capabilities. Due to the nature of working with multiple companies in the television industry, such as Studio Ramsey and Blackfin, Thier

felt pressure to move to one of the larger hotspots like L.A. or New York City. However, she said it's almost impossible to move to one of those bigger cities without living paycheck to paycheck.

After living away from Harrisonburg for eight months, Thier returned to the Friendly City and realized it was more than feasible to make connections in a small city, she said. She's been able to meet artists and performers by working on local events including Macroock and the Super Gr8 film festival.

"I was able to do the work I wanted to do ... without having to sacrifice a comfortable lifestyle for my career," Thier said.

While there are many benefits to networking in a large city for those working in the entertainment industry, Thier said, she found the alternative to work in her favor. Rather than working in a city where everyone is competing to work on the same projects, she became the go-to person for movie work or traveling shows in the surrounding area, such as Washington, D.C. This resulted in a steady stream of jobs paired with an affordable cost of living, she said.

Though they might not have it all figured out yet, members of the graduating class of 2022 said they feel that Harrisonburg is a great place to start.

Molly Gorski, a graduating psychology major and medical humanities minor, is waiting in Harrisonburg for the time being to see what comes next for her. Gorski said she's optimistic about a potential job opportunity as a volleyball athlete evaluator and she's hoping to hear back about graduate school at JMU. Gorski explained that having lived in northern Virginia before

coming to JMU, she intends to find a job locally and live in the 'Burg for the next few years. Gorski said she enjoys living in the mountains.

"I personally love the Harrisonburg environment," Gorski said. "I also have a longer lease on my apartment, so I'm trying to soak that up while I can."

When students stay local after they graduate, they find more success than they would have expected in making connections with the community, Macgill said.

"There's not a lot of friction like you see in a lot of college towns," Macgill said, in the sense that JMU makes a positive impact on the community. "Here, it's really viewed as a win-win."

Michael Russo and Avery Goodstine contributed to this report.

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Molly Gorski, not pictured, said she's staying in Harrisonburg after graduation this month while she plans her next steps. Photo illustration by Cambria Lee / The Breeze



Through events like Macroock and the Super Gr8 film festival, Sydney Thier ('18) said she's been able to network and collaborate with other artists and performers. Cambria Lee / The Breeze



Leia Surovell, second from left, will take over next year for Ginger Barbour, right, as the new chairperson of SGA's DEIJA+ committee. Abi Middleton / The Breeze

SGA committee works to foster acceptance and inclusion on campus

By **MORGAN VUKNIC**
The Breeze

Starting in 2019, JMU's student government association (SGA) created a diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) committee with the goals of creating change in regard to DEI efforts on campus and advocating for students through pursuing legislative changes at the JMU level. The committee tries to achieve this by advocating for multicultural student organizations, LGBTQ organizations and mental health resources on campus, according to its Instagram.

The committee is currently led by senior health sciences and theatre double major Ginger Barbour, who is the previous chairperson of the committee. In this position, she's spearheaded initiatives such as changing the name of the Women's Health Clinic in the University Health Center to a general OB-GYN, which she said would allow the name to be more inclusive.

Barbour also leads the committee's podcast, "Distanced and Intimate," which started last April. The most recent episodes have covered underrepresented populations, such as the Black and Latinx communities, in the media and first-generation college students. Barbour said she thinks the podcast is a great way to show the intersectionality that exists at JMU.

"My favorite thing has been talking to people and getting their firsthand experiences," Barbour said. "Within SGA, we've tried to transform our organization to be more inclusive and to be a space for people to feel like they belong so that they'll have that sense of security and know that we're advocating for them."

With Barbour graduating in May, sophomore anthropology major Leia Surovell will be taking over as chairperson of the committee. With the recent name change of the committee from the SGA DEI Committee to the SGA Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Accessibility Plus (DEIJA+) Committee, Surovell said they're looking forward to continuing making this organization, and SGA as a whole, as inclusive as it can be.

Along with being chairperson of the committee, Surovell will be sitting on the student advisory board to the General Education Council and will also have a spot on the council. The council assesses the General Education curriculum based on how inclusive its classes are. Surovell said in a text that they'll be holding both positions because it's something they care about and something they want to do.

One of Surovell's main goals is to bring more awareness to the committee itself. They said they want to continue working with student organizations like the Inter-Cultural Greek Council (ICGC) and produce more consistent installments of the podcast.

Last semester, Surovell said via text that the committee worked with ICGC where they called for the removal of some culturally

insensitive photos from ICGC's website and office as well as for ICGC organizations to be included on the Fraternity and Sorority Life's (FSL) website. These photos were removed from the website, but Surovell said they were unable to get ICGC organizations onto the FSL website.

Surovell said they also hope to increase the number of Pizza and Politics sessions the committee has. At Pizza and Politics, the DEIJA+ committee invites students to come have informal conversations about social justice issues, such as criminal justice reform and healthcare disparities, over pizza.

Surovell's main priority, though, is to create a club fair specifically for students who are part of marginalized groups. They said this idea was brought up this year by another member of the committee, sophomore health sciences major and incoming senator Karla Hernandez, but there wasn't enough time to implement it.

"Being a student who's part of a marginalized group makes it hard sometimes to find a place where you fit in on campus," Surovell said. "[Hernandez's] idea is to have an event where these organizations can get students introduced to spaces where they'll feel welcome on campus and to connect them with resources."

Hernandez said one of the main reasons she joined the DEIJA+ committee was to work on strengthening the relationship between organizations that are in the Center for Multicultural Student Services (CMSS) and SGA.

"All of these CMSS organizations are big and they're led by students who know what is going on around campus," Hernandez said. "Next year I want to be able to send them a form where they can say what they want from SGA because we have the ability to change things. We can pass resolutions and, hopefully, get things done."

In addition to communicating with students, the committee also works with JMU administration to try to implement more DEI initiatives. Barbour said they've specifically worked with Brent Lewis, associate vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion; Art Dean, executive director for access and inclusion; DeAndrae Powell, assistant director for ICGC and multicultural programs; Jen Grossman Leopard with the office of student life; and Vice President for Student Affairs Tim Miller on an as-needed basis. She said they've also worked with student organizations such as the Black Student Alliance and JMU's chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Barbour said meeting with Leopard to work on including ICGC on the FSL website was helpful, but ultimately nothing came out of it. She said it's nice to have faculty members and administration listen, but that their advocacy can only go so far without actually implementing DEI initiatives that are being discussed.

"At first, I made an effort to talk with administration, but we just seemed to have the same conversations over and over again,"

Barbour said. "It really wasn't a good use of my time and it just seemed like I could do more with the committee through events or our podcast."

Hernandez said meeting with administration is difficult because no matter what SGA changes, not everyone is going to be happy about it.

"What can the administration really do without people being upset?" Hernandez said. "It's difficult when we go to them expressing our concerns and they don't put their foot down and implement the resolutions we're asking for."

One thing that's holding the committee back, Barbour said, is the size of it. She said that because the committee is small — with only eight members this year — there's a limit on what initiatives they can enact.

Barbour mentioned that she believes the committee is so small because it's new within SGA and because some people who aren't people of color may not feel comfortable talking on DEI issues.

"We need more people who are passionate and have the commitment," Barbour said. "With the committee being open to anyone, we have opportunities to collaborate with others and to hear their ideas and what they want from the school. If we had more people, we could get so much more done in a much shorter amount of time."

Another limitation for the committee is an overall lack of recognition across campus, Surovell said. They added that the podcast and Pizza and Politics are important events, but the events don't happen often enough to be seen as a staple of the DEIJA+ committee's outreach.

As chairperson next year, Surovell said they hope to increase the DEIJA+ committee's presence on campus through having more regular events and increasing its social media presence, since many students get their information that way. Stressing the importance of the committee, Surovell said that having more frequent programs will allow for more diverse voices to be heard.

"Having a diversity committee creates an environment where everybody within SGA has to think about diversity," Surovell said. "Within the events we put on, you'll be able to have the perspective of, 'Is this event accessible? Is it a space where people can feel comfortable? Are there going to be people from all different colleges there?' It's questions like these that are important and say that we care about students feeling accepted and included."

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A WEALTH OF HEALTH

How to cope with the stress of finals season

By **HANNAH LIFRIERI**
contributing writer

The school year is coming to an end and summer's right around the corner, but so are finals. It's hard to enjoy the last couple of weeks of school if you find yourself anxiously studying and preparing for exams. Exam stress is real, and something countless students across the nation experience but rarely find solutions to. According to a study referenced by Sadie Blood in The Daily Universe, 64% of observed college students feel stress and anxiety about exams. To perform your best on an exam, it's important to stay calm — something easier said than done.

Seven ways to improve motivation

Many students practice memorization when studying and become frustrated when they don't perform well. Winston Sieck for Global Cognition compiled a list of ways to improve motivation for studying based on findings from former JMU researcher Rory Lazowski:

1. Set clear goals
2. Go for mastery
3. Take responsibility
4. Adopt a growth mindset
5. Find the relevance
6. Imagine your future self
7. Reaffirm your personal values

When approaching an exam, managing your thoughts is crucial. On the day of your exam, take time to review the topics you may struggle most on, but don't become discouraged. If you're feeling anxious before your exam, there are breathing strategies that can help you relax. Breathing in for five seconds, holding it for four seconds, breathing out for five seconds and repeating these steps for a few minutes can help you feel a sense of relaxation.

When you finally start your exam, take the time to read each question carefully and find the keywords. If your anxiety starts to rise, it's beneficial to find familiar phrases or words that connect you to what you studied. During your exam time, going blank may seem like the end of the world. However, Deakin University recommended a few strategies to combat this feeling, like testing the validity of your thoughts. When you come to a question you may be unsure of and your brain freezes for a moment, read the question and try your best to summarize the overall concept in your own words, and you may find yourself understanding the question more than you originally allowed yourself to believe.

Read the full article at breezejmu.org.



Members say there's a saying in Student Ambassadors: "The purple polo is always on." Breeze file photos

J-M-U DUUKES

A day in the life of a Student Ambassador

By **MACKENZIE GREEN**
contributing writer

The outgoing peppiness and high energy of JMU Student Ambassadors (SA) is widely known throughout the JMU community, but there's more to it than meets the eye.

Elizabeth "Lizzie" Nguyen, a sophomore kinesiology and pre-medicine major, has been a part of SA for the last year and said she's loved sharing her story.

"I want to share my experiences with what makes JMU so great: the people," Nguyen said. "Older Dukes convinced me to come here, and fellow Dukes convinced me to stay. There is so much more to JMU, the campus and Harrisonburg that a pamphlet or virtual tour simply cannot tell our prospective students."

When she started at JMU in fall 2020 during the pandemic, Nguyen said she never felt like she was really a part of the JMU community. She was encouraged by friends from her Distinguished-Bluestone Scholarship to start the lengthy application process of becoming a Student Ambassador.

When Nguyen toured JMU during her senior year of high school, she said, her tour guide was personable and made JMU feel like "someplace I could imagine myself."

Day in the life

Nguyen said she begins her Wednesday around 8:30 a.m. with her Organic Chemistry II class, then she'll head to Main Campus afterward to grab lunch and study with friends. Around 1:30 p.m., she makes her way to the Office of Admissions in Madison Hall to prepare for tours in the afternoon.

Nguyen said a typical tour can last anywhere from one- to two-and-a-half hours depending on the guide and event. After an afternoon full of showing future Dukes around campus, at 5:00 p.m. she heads to grab coffee and a snack before returning to Madison Hall for the SA general body meeting.

SA is more than just giving tours to future Dukes, Nguyen said, and not all ambassadors are the same.

"SA is very diverse and we make it a mission to have people we can represent in our body," Nguyen said, mentioning that a lot of members are a part of different academic programs and have varying backgrounds. "Not everyone is going to be 110% bubbly all the time. A lot of tour guide origin stories come from a place where we didn't feel like we belonged here at JMU and through SA, we found a family."

After the general body meeting, Nguyen goes to D-Hall to eat dinner with friends from SA — something she said has

become somewhat of a tradition after these meetings for them.

Brielle Lacroix, a freshman public policy and administration major, said she prefers morning tours, so she usually starts her day around 9 a.m. with her first tour, which will last around three hours. Afterward, Lacroix gets lunch at D-Hall, her favorite, with friends — she says she's a hard-core D-Hall fan and eats every meal there.

Lacroix mentioned she was nervous to attend her first SA event, as she said she believed everyone would already be an established group and she didn't feel as outgoing as everyone else. However, Lacroix said she discovered how open the community was to her the first few weeks she joined. Older members would text her to get lunch which, in a club of almost 200 members, she said, is refreshing.

Ben Scott, a freshman jazz studies guitar major, went to the club fair last fall looking for something to be a part of on-campus when he came across SA. He signed up on a whim, he said, and then saw it through completely.

On a day when Scott has tours, like a Tuesday or Thursday, he said he begins by waking up and getting ready for his first class, then he usually goes home and practices his guitar before lunch. Around 2:00 p.m., he heads over to admissions to begin his tour, then schedules time to wind down "and come out of tour mode," he said.

Burnout

Nguyen touched on her experience with burnout and the mixture of navigating college through the pandemic and the stress that comes along with being a college student, as well as the added pressures of being a part of SA.

There's a saying in SA, Nguyen said: "The purple polo is always on." This means ambassadors are always representing SA and JMU, even when not actively giving a tour. While Nguyen spoke positively about the saying, she said it becomes difficult sometimes to maintain 110% energy and deal with the pressure to be "smiley" at all times. Nguyen said SA as an organization recognizes these pressures and holds self-care events, like making s'mores, to help members destress and provides support from the executive board and the admissions office.

Lacroix also manages to maintain a campus job as a chat assistant twice a week for JMU Libraries and is part of other clubs on campus. Like Nguyen, she spoke about her experience with burnout and said she's lucky to have good time management skills. She said she works through her burnout by going to things that aren't required of her, like her

swing dancing club. Lacroix said it's important to join clubs, but also to have things she can say "no" to help to build in "me time."

Her biggest tip for combating burnout is to enjoy everything you do — "much easier said than done" — but she said having these responsibilities has made her a much better person. She said taking personal responsibility is crucial overall because it allows working through mistakes without feeling guilty or ashamed. It also strengthens a person's character as they become better at acknowledging they aren't perfect.

Throughout his first year of college, Scott said, his opinion on mental health has changed completely. As a music major, he said he feels constant pressure and has learned to take his own mental health more seriously "because [college] is ... a big environment shift from home."

Scott said he's experienced imposter syndrome — when someone questions their own talents and feels like a fraud, struggles to accept their own achievements and questions whether they're deserving of recognition. Auditioning on Zoom and being a self-taught musician have led him to struggle with burnout and imposter syndrome, Scott said. He copes by watching TV with friends, attending the University Program Board's "crafternoon" events on Thursdays in The Union or going thrifting — anything to escape campus for a short time to decompress, he said.

Despite its challenges, Lacroix said she's always thought being a tour guide was an intriguing position. She also discussed that with SA being such a diverse group with people from all walks of life and all kinds of majors, she appreciates having conversations with fellow members and having the opportunity to learn about new things.

Even though many types of Dukes are involved with SA, there seems to be one common thread between them all: their love for JMU and for creating a positive change for the community.

"It is more than [giving tours] because it is promoting students to come here and growing the JMU community," Lacroix said. "Giving tours is something ... I really feel good about. [It's] something I can do well and make an impact."

While keeping the passion alive of past, present and future JMU Dukes through SA, all these students have found a home and deeper love for J-M-U DUUUUUUKES.

CONTACT Mackenzie Green at green2ml@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.



Some members said they find it difficult to obtain the bubbly and smiley personality they are expected to have all the time.



Members of Student Ambassadors say it helped them feel more at home at JMU.



"It is more than [giving tours] because it is promoting students to come here and growing the JMU community."

Brielle Lacroix
Student Ambassador



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DELIVERY





Zack Lipshultz said his “cookie-bite” hearing loss and his ADHD were unexpected influences on his music. Courtesy of Zack Lipshultz

JMU music producer and DJ brings hyperpop to Harrisonburg

By **JAKE DODOHARA**
The Breeze

“Don’t overthink shit” — those are the words on a felt letter board sign in junior media arts and design (SMAD) major Zack Lipshultz’s music studio. The sentiment is appropriate for the space — a spare bedroom in Lipshultz’s apartment that’s been modified into a makeshift studio. The room’s equipped with a barrage of recording gear, instruments and vinyl records. Underneath a large sun lamp is Lipshultz’s computer, filled with around 300 files of unreleased song ideas — an appropriate amount for ample overthinking.

Although Lipshultz said he has an overflowing amount of unreleased material, he’s only just released his debut single “Ache” on April 20 under the moniker “ZNL.”

“Ache” is a glitchy hyperpop track where Lipshultz’s pitched-up vocals lament about “being frustrated with how things are going and how they’re not really working out,” he said.

“I’m a perfectionist, overthinker, anxious — whatever you want to call it,” Lipshultz said, noting he often favors creating new projects instead of finishing the older ones. “I definitely fall into the trap of ‘Oh no, I don’t really like this,’ and I’ll listen to something for too long and my ears get tired.”

The beginning

According to Lipshultz, his passion for music began in the womb — literally. He said his mother claims that while attending a concert pregnant, he began to kick to the beat of the song. His musical development continued throughout his childhood, with his father playing singer-songwriters, Jack Johnson and Tracy Chapman, around the house. After discovering Skrillex and electronic dance music (EDM) at 11 years old, Lipshultz downloaded the music software Ableton and began producing his own music.

When entering JMU, Lipshultz joined the EDM club and began to DJ other artists’ music. Lipshultz said he found he had a knack for anticipating what an audience wanted to hear. Lipshultz’s friend Jess Balick Goodman experienced this first hand in their freshman dorm’s basement. He said Lipshultz would show him mashups he created.

“That devolved into us playing this game freshman year where we would shuffle my music library, take two songs and mash them

up,” Goodman said. “[When I saw] how quickly he was able to do it and how good it would sound was the first time I realized ‘Yeah, this kid is gonna do really cool things.’”

Lipshultz said his experience with “Ache” was markedly different from other songs as he produced the song quickly, leaving him no time to be fatigued. The song is aggressive and abrasive yet upbeat and addictively catchy — a staple of the hyperpop genre.

Hyperpop — believed to be popularized by Spotify’s playlist of the same name, according to the New York Times — is a musical genre defined by an avant-garde, extremist take on pop music. Sonically, the genre features hooky melodies, Auto-Tuned or pitch-modified vocals and distorted electronic instrumentals. The genre has gained immense popularity in recent years, especially within the LGBTQ community, with The Atlantic dubbing it “the countercultural sound of the 2020s.”

Despite the genre being in style, many artists labeled as hyperpop often express a disconnect with being categorized as such. Popstar Charli XCX, who’s often deemed one of hyperpop’s earliest founders, stated that she felt “boxed in by the fact that people can summarize [her] catalog using a three-syllable word.” Lipshultz expressed similar feelings about being placed in a genre.

“Even though that term [hyperpop] is very vague and always changing, it still feels like a box,” Lipshultz said. “I was sharing songs in my songwriting class and ... one of the last songs I did was a straight up punk song, and my professor was like, ‘I’m curious, why didn’t you make an electronic song?’ I was like, ‘Well, I didn’t want to make that.’”

Adapting with challenges

Although he’s produced music with analog instrumentation, Lipshultz has a theory on why his preferences lean toward hyperpop and electronic music. As a child, Lipshultz said, he was diagnosed with “cookie-bite” hearing loss, meaning he can’t hear mid-range frequencies between 500 Hz and 2,000 Hz. People with cookie-bite hearing loss may experience trouble hearing any mid-range tones, which can diminish one’s comprehension of speech and music. Instead of letting it limit his self-confidence as a producer, Lipshultz said he believes this condition informs his artistry.

“The reason I do that dry vocal sound is because it’s way easier for me to hear that,” Lipshultz said. He explained that his

production style refrains from adding too much echo or reverb to vocals and allows them to exist “upfront” in the mix, so he can hear them best.

Lipshultz cites his ADHD as another unexpected influence on his music.

“ADHD is a dopamine deficiency, in theory,” Lipshultz explained. “Our brains like patterns and they like being able to recognize things because it gives them a controlled amount of dopamine. But when you listen to new music, it’s like so much dopamine the brain doesn’t know what to do with it. But for me, someone who’s dopamine-deficient ... I want to hear something new.”

Lipshultz described electronic music as a place where he can “hear things I’ve never heard before in my life” and “think about music differently.” He said he also enjoys sampling, a production technique that reuses an outsourced, pre-existing sound — another element that’s influenced by his “dopamine-deprived” brain. In his music, he’s included samples of everything from old One Direction songs to Pokémon sound effects.

Although Lipshultz is known for his musical talents, those closest to him cite his kind demeanor as being as important as his musicianship.

“It was just a super, super fun time,” freshman communications major D.C. Sellin said, describing his collaboration with Lipshultz on a song. “He’s a super talented dude and he knows so much about so many different things ... At the end of the day, he is really humble.”

Lipshultz asserts he wants to be known as a well-rounded creative, as he’s also got a passion for photography and video production, but music is what always draws him, he said.

“I’m definitely happiest when whatever I’m doing is related to music, whether that’s making a poster for a show or shooting video or taking pictures of other people DJing for EDM club,” Lipshultz said. “It always seems to come back to music.”

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Steinbrecher coaches the volleyball team. Breeze file photo



Zazenski consoles a JMU player. Trevor Cockburn / The Breeze

Remain together

JMU coaches learn from the challenges of the year

from **COACHES CORNER**, page 1

'It was a whirlwind'

JMU head coaches were faced with charging through realignment, conference bans and season-ending injuries on top of the daily struggles they said they face both in and out of season.

"What I tell my staff and myself is just, you know, be yourself and be honest with the players," Zazenski said.

Zazenski described the first half of the men's soccer season as filled with "great momentum." After falling to 2020 national champion and future Sun Belt foe Marshall, JMU men's soccer carried on with its season as expected with the expectation of winning the program's fourth consecutive CAA title.

Along the way, the Dukes took down UVa. in double overtime for the first time in 40 years, and the head coach said the team was "playing with a lot of confidence." Zazenski emphasized how excited he was going into conference play and performing well early on.

"We were riding hot out of the gate," Zazenski said. "We had some historic wins ... and towards the middle of the season we were up in the rankings quite, quite high."

With only one game in the regular season and a conference placement clinched, Zazenski had to tell his team their season depended on that final game. And although the Dukes took an early lead, their season was cut short and they were left frustrated and empty-handed.

"The last couple of weeks of the season, [we] had them understand that it's OK to be upset, because we were upset as coaches [too]," Zazenski said.

Zazenski said the hardest part of the "whirlwind" was that he felt helpless to his players. With the decision out of his hands, the head coach described how difficult it was to have to stand and watch the team's biggest goal slip right out of their hands.

"I wanted to protect the players — my players — and stand up for them," Zazenski said. "But at the same token, I knew that there really wasn't much that I could do to truly change the situation. So, you know, I did do my part. And I thought I tried to put up [a] fight, to at least make people understand that we were very disappointed."

Once the men's soccer NCAA selection show revealed the Dukes didn't make the cut as an at-large competitor, Zazenski was left with one question: What now? The move to the Sun Belt was confirmed, but there was no

way of knowing if men's soccer would rejoin as a sponsored sport. Zazenski described it as a waiting game, unsure what will happen, how soon or if it was even a possibility.

It took another five months for that question to be answered, when Sun Belt Commissioner Keith Gill announced the reinstatement of men's soccer in the Sun Belt on April 7. Once the announcement was made, the head coach said it allowed him to put his focus fully onto preparing for new opponents.

"Once things were official, we had the press conference ... we could breathe a sigh of relief," Zazenski said. "Things became more real, and we had a goal to work towards."

Zazenski said the offseason allowed some time to reflect, but that there were many emotions to process as the lingering questions remained. He's now switching his focus from reflecting and learning from the past to looking at the new mysteries that lie ahead with a new conference and new opponents to take on.

"It being in April, we feel much better about it," Zazenski said. "We certainly needed a little bit of that downtime, and I also think that the summer will be a great time for that same exact thing."

'They were ashamed of being in the CAA'

Walters Sr. sat on the JMU women's soccer team's bus as the Dukes traveled to Elon, North Carolina. He had to tell the team their peers were banned from their respective CAA tournaments.

The women's soccer team and JMU field hockey were the last teams to play in their conference tournaments.

The Dukes placed tape over their CAA logos on their jerseys but still felt pressure to perform well. Walters said there was "extreme responsibility" to succeed since no one else had the same opportunity.

"You felt the weight of that was on your shoulders to try to make everyone proud," Walters Sr. said. "[JMU women's soccer] felt sad for some of those seniors, especially for some of those other programs who, you know, were going through, 'Hey, my season just ended because I can't go to this CAA tournament.'"

For Walters Sr., the 2021 season was a combination of the past tribulations the team has gone through, he said. He said he considers the pandemic years a part of one long, overwhelming string of difficulties he's faced as a head coach.

"I think it kind of goes all together to me; it's not an isolated event," Walters Sr. said. "We

were dealing with all of these things across that spectrum at the same time and also just almost feel like you feel multipronged attacked in different directions."

The head coach was as a military officer for 10 years and said that experience helped "frame things" because he's able to realize the game is only a game. However, after seeing the Dukes face their struggles over the last few years, Walters has understood why that mindset isn't the same with his athletes.

"There are opportunities for us to teach people how to deal with life, how to succeed, how to be resilient and how when bad things happen, you can change," Walters Sr. said. "I'm so proud of the girls, who they are and who they became [through] that process."

'Everyone was just emotionally drained'

Steinbrecher wanted her team to play with pride, so JMU volleyball took down Towson at home inside a packed Sinclair Gymnasium. She had goals for the Dukes in mind, the main one being to make the NCAA tournament by taking down back-to-back conference champion Towson.

"We couldn't have been playing for more things that first game," Steinbrecher said. "I think it was the two-year culmination of the great rivalry, and the last couple of years between our programs of finally getting the chance to play."

JMU volleyball was a team that still had a few more matches before the conference tournament, but it was part of what slowly became a difficult finish to the season.

The volleyball team took part in the student-athlete protest Homecoming weekend on the football field immediately after winning their match. The team wasn't afraid to show their true emotions, Steinbrecher said, and she felt it was justified for the athletes and coaching staff to be unrestrained.

"I think a lot of it was just being genuine and authentic with them," Steinbrecher said. "I teared up telling them, and I don't know that I tried to hide the emotions because they were terrible emotions."

Steinbrecher said she found comfort in knowing she wasn't alone throughout the year. Although she said it wasn't a constant conversation, she said she's empathetic for the ones learning to move forward and the coaches still dealing with their own challenges.

"How can you make the best of a situation you can't control? I think that's powerful in itself, and a huge life lesson," Steinbrecher said.

'It was like trying to sell hope'

Walking into the season, knowing the only realistic opportunity to make the NCAA tournament was as an at-large bid, O'Regan said he knew he had a difficult task on his hands. And while he saw promise early on in the season, he said he felt that after the first game, the JMU women's basketball team started a difficult journey physically and mentally.

"The first misstep was the Maryland game," O'Regan said. "And so that was the first time we kind of got knocked down, and I didn't love the way we got up."

The Dukes had moments of good and bad stretches, O'Regan said. He said his biggest issue he struggled with was how to motivate his team when they were down and how to keep them motivated as games went on.

"You've got to find a balance as a coach to figure out ways to motivate," O'Regan said. "They're result-oriented kids and that's OK."

The Dukes continued to struggle with motivation, and O'Regan said he struggled to find ways to motivate his team and himself. Trying to focus on the CAA regular season championship, JMU jumped out to a 2-0 lead before evening at 2-2 a week later. The head coach said it was frustrating trying to find a way to keep his team going and that in some moments, it felt like failing.

"It doesn't matter if you're stressed, or you're bummed out, none of that stuff matters, you have to show them how to handle it and how to keep attacking, no matter what," O'Regan said. "Because you're constantly thinking ... 'Where did I fail this person? Where did I fail our team?'"

Now that the season ended, O'Regan said he's taken a lot of lessons from it: most importantly, continuing to love the challenge of coaching.

All four JMU head coaches faced their own struggles throughout the season and said they learned how to stand tall despite brewing emotions. The coaches agreed the move to the Sun Belt is becoming more and more like a "breath of fresh air," as Walters Sr. said, and although there's still more to learn from, the season has given them challenges beyond their expectations.

But it's what makes their jobs worth it. "That's what you sign up for," O'Regan said. "That's why I love it, because it's a challenge."

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Last 10 Games:		
then-No. 19 Richmond	13-10	W
then-No. 14 UVA	16-14	W
then-No. 3 Maryland	13-8	W
Towson	14-8	W
Hofstra	17-10	W
Elon	18-2	W
Liberty	22-3	W
W&M	21-9	W
Delaware	14-11	W
Drexel	18-12	W



The Dukes have defeated three ranked opponents during their current 10-game win streak. Cambria Lee / The Breeze

ALL GEARED UP

Analysis | No. 10 JMU lacrosse poised to make an NCAA tournament run

By **JOSHUA DIXON**
contributing writer

JMU lacrosse is at the forefront of conversations about powerhouse teams in women’s college sports. With Selection Sunday quickly approaching, the Dukes have emerged again as a favorite to not only make the tournament but win it, especially with the team’s current hot streak. The team is on a 10-game win streak where they currently have an average goal differential of 7.9.

The wins themselves are nothing to scoff about, either.

The Maryland Terrapins are No. 2 in the nation, only losing one game this season to JMU. Yet, the Dukes are the only team to take them down in the regular season. Not only did JMU win, but it won comfortably by five goals. This was all done on the road in College Park, Maryland.

The win against Maryland isn’t the only one that stands out on JMU’s schedule. Looking at the Dukes’ 13 wins, 10 are by five or more goals, and four of them are by 10. They also had back-to-back games where they won by over 15 goals, 16 against Elon and 19 against Liberty.

The team has caught fire at the right time. Before postseason, it’s important to be the team that’s already hot rather than the team that has to get hot — especially with single-game elimination.

JMU is currently 13-4 and No. 10 in both the rating power index (RPI) and the national coaches polls, with no games left until tournament play begins.

So, now the waiting game begins. The selection show on Sunday will determine JMU’s postseason fate — not whether the Dukes will make the tournament, but who and where they’ll play.

The main reason for all the success is the team’s current hot hand: redshirt sophomore attacker Isabella Peterson. She’s been in a class of her own this season with 68 goals, making her fifth in the nation. Her ability to score comes from not only her isolation game but also her off-ball movement, which has allowed teammates like redshirt senior attacker Katie Checkosky to rack up assists (41).

While JMU’s current ranking has it just outside the top eight, the team could easily find its way into that top eight come Sunday. Being in the top eight guarantees at least one home game within the tournament.

There are three ACC schools currently ranked ahead of the Dukes, and three Big Ten. With conference tournament play going on now, it’s only going to hurt some of these schools if

7.9

is the goal differential for JMU since March 16. It’s the fifth highest among the RPI top 10 in each teams last 10 games.

one loses, changing the landscape of the top eight teams.

Teams like UNC could continue to go undefeated, which would strengthen JMU’s RPI because it played UNC in its opening game, causing the Dukes’ opponents’ win percentages to go up, in turn helping JMU’s case for a higher seed. Now, of course, all these factors that could help JMU could also come back to hurt it. The number of teams ahead of JMU that won’t all be able to win their conference championships will ultimately benefit the Dukes, allowing JMU to move up.

The biggest help in the push for JMU to get that top eight spot is not playing in the CAA tournament. Believe it or not, while the ban has tormented JMU athletes all year long, this is the first time it’s actually aiding the program. Playing in this tournament would’ve brought JMU down because its average opponents winning percentage goes down.

Towson is currently the next best team in the CAA, sitting at 8-7. The team is ranked No. 34 in RPI. Next best in the CAA is Drexel at No. 44. None of the teams in the CAA tournament would’ve helped boost JMU’s RPI.

So, sure, it may stink for JMU that it can’t continue to wipe the floor with the CAA conference like it did in the regular season as it emerged 6-0. The Dukes also won’t get to hoist the trophy saying CAA champion or get the automatic bid. But, JMU’s seeding and positioning within the NCAA tournament will be better because of it, and it’s easy to see that JMU will be ranked above whoever wins the CAA.

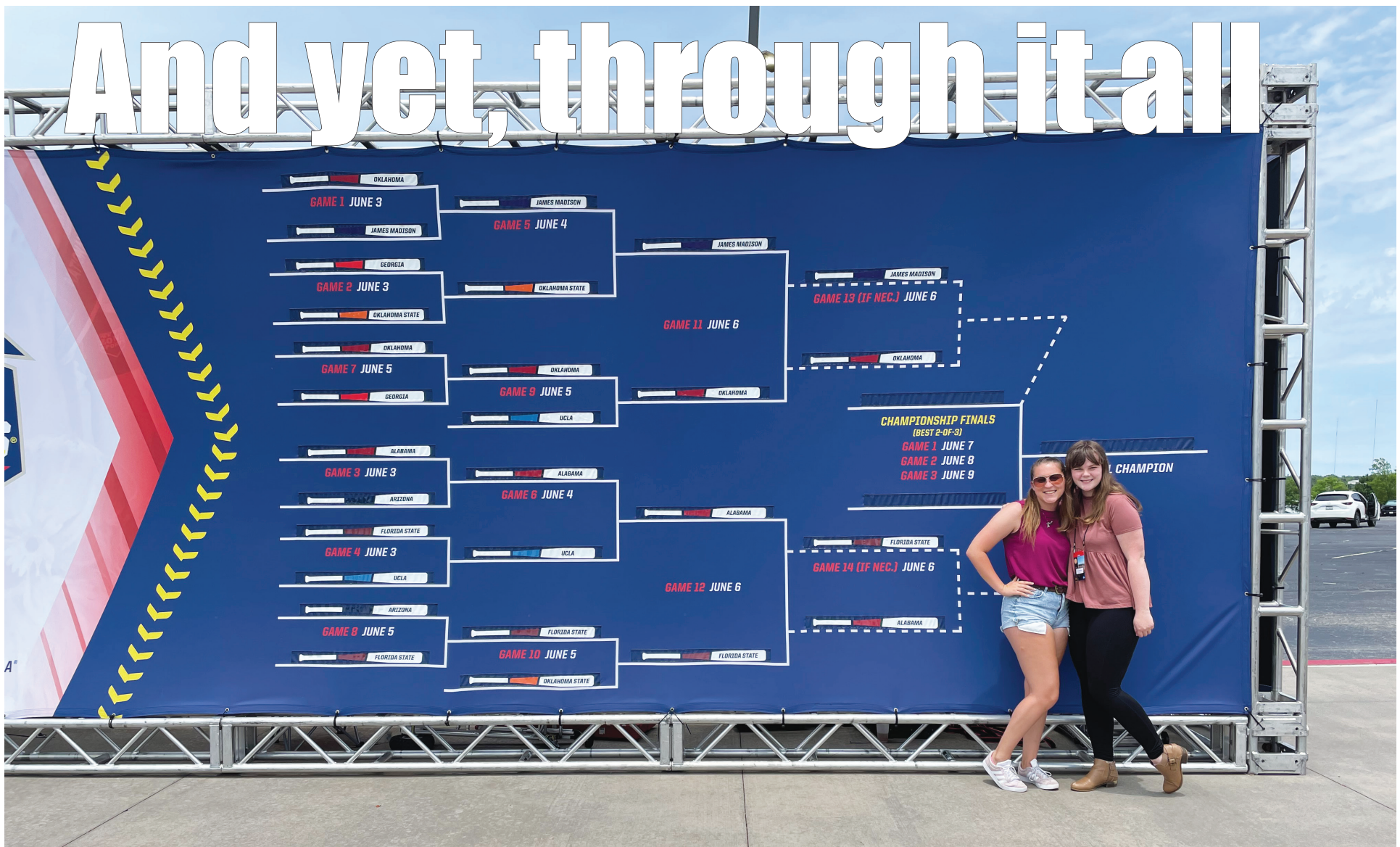
When conference tournaments wrap up and the selection committee announces the bracket, expect JMU to be a top eight team within it. The Dukes will host one of the playoff games at home in Sentera Park, with the date and time to be determined.

As for what to expect from the team once tournament ball starts, fans will just have to wait and see. It’s not hard to imagine, though, that a team who has already won 10 straight continues its dominant performances. Key players will need to continue to dominate games for the success to continue, and there’s no signs that they won’t.

Twenty of 24 votes — almost 83% — on the Breeze Sports Twitter poll believe JMU is one of the most dominant teams heading into the selection show.

Many forget that, while it was back in 2018 when JMU won the national championship, only two teams have actually won a title since 2018 due to COVID-19 interruptions. Who’s to say the team can’t find its way back to hoisting the title above their heads?

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2021-22 sports editors Savannah Reger and Madison Hricik took part in covering the 2021 Women's College World Series. Jake Conley / The Breeze

Editor's Perspective | Sports editors say goodbye and thank you after a year together

By **SAVANNAH REGER & MADISON HRICIK**
The Breeze

This year started with a double byline — and that's how we're ending it.

We started the year by writing about the effect the Name, Image, Likeness vote had on JMU Athletics. We didn't expect to have to write more. We expected it to be a typical JMU sports year in the CAA: a chance at a Frisco trip, spending spring covering the basketball conference tournaments and maybe a shot at some spring sports hosting an NCAA tournament game.

As you know, that wasn't the case at all. The two of us have lived together since day one of college. We met at some random Starbucks on a random May afternoon after finding each other on a Facebook group, both looking for a roommate for our freshman year. It took maybe 30 minutes for us to decide to room together, but we spent another three hours just talking about every sports team we liked.

Since moving in, we've done everything together. We applied to The Breeze together, went to our first meeting together — the whole thing.

It's why we're so close, and it was exactly what we needed for everything that happened.

Oklahoma City, the Virginia General Assembly in Richmond, Fargo, North Dakota — all trips that made national news, all trips we made this year.

We've annoyed our roommates all year by yelling across the hall to each other and nearly breaking down the door to show each other an article or a tweet. Most nights, the two of us have come home

well after midnight still buzzing while our roommates tried to sleep or do homework — honestly, we were too excited to realize they wanted it to be quiet.

What we learned is how important it is to trust each other. Trusting one of us can be at a press conference while the other is at a football game. One of us is writing stories in the stands at the Women's College World Series while the other sits in the press box.

We've needed that relationship, that trust this year.

We wrote 13 double bylines this year. Twelve of those were written when we were both sports editors. We would sit in the conference room in The Breeze office, write out how they were going to go on the board, yell, get excited and check them off as we went.

We got them done. We packed them with information and we trusted each other to tell the story.

Covering JMU sports this year meant a lot to us. We brought former editors back this year to talk to our writers on Zoom and every time, we heard about possibilities of JMU moving to the Sun Belt — the biggest stage of college athletics — and how exciting and important it could be to cover it first hand.

In November, we did just that. We didn't want to let the people before us down — our former sports editors, Catie Harper and Noah Ziegler — and wanted our section of writers to be people we could trust and that we knew best.

This year at JMU was one that's never happened before. Week after week, there was news in all sections, not just sports. Yet,

it was sports that had the biggest changes and biggest shifts out of any other section.

We dealt with conference realignment. Sports came back in full swing after a pandemic and a ban on conference playoffs sparked an uproar from JMU Nation. We covered JMU beating U.Va. in basketball to the first ever sold out Atlantic Union Bank Center. It was all positive, going in JMU's way, but big events that shifted how athletics will be seen nationwide.

We thought we were done, finished with double bylines. Then, we dealt with the hardest news of the year — the death of Lauren Bernett.

With Lauren, we spent all day in a writing slump, separated. We couldn't figure out the right words or how to phrase the story. Then we went into that same conference room at 7 p.m., wrote it out on the wall and finished our last but best story of the year together. It embodied everything we did to keep up with JMU Athletics this year.

There were nights we thought we'd never finish everything on our to-do list. There were nights one or both of us spent crying and dreading having to get up in the morning, terrified to make a mistake or not share a story to its full potential. But what made it work was our ability to pick each other up. It all came back to the trust we had with each other and the trust we had in the work we wanted to do.

We were pushed to our absolute limit every week. By our editor-in-chief, Jake Conley, by our parents, by JMU Nation, by ourselves. We put pressure on ourselves to become the go-to source for JMU news when it came to realignment, looking for any angle we could use to intrigue readers.

There were times one of us would walk into the other's room, lay on their bed and scream into pillows or walk around talking out different scenarios or ideas we could create a story out of.

Some days were better than others, but at the end of the day, it was what we wanted. From day one, we knew one day we wanted to be sports editors together — that was our goal.

We hope we made JMU Nation proud of the time and work we put in every day. Sure, there were days we didn't think we'd make deadline and other days we laughed until our stomachs hurt. We traveled to states we'll probably never go to again just to watch and cover the Dukes. It didn't matter the time of day or night the flight was, or what time we got home — if there was a story, we were there.

To the two freshmen who took a chance on one another as roommates — we hope we made you proud as well. We know how much you love The Breeze, and we know how happy you'd be to find out the opportunities this year would bring on.

So, we finish this year the way we started — with a double byline — but instead of deep diving into what JMU did this year, we take a look back on ourselves, what we accomplished and how no other sports editors will ever have a year quite like this for a long time.

And we think we did a pretty good job at it.

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Support LB

Bridgewater College and Eastern Mennonite University spread awareness for Lauren Bernett

By **CRAIG MATHIAS**
The Breeze

Sports frequently connect different regions of the country together. This past week, it happened with multiple schools inside the Shenandoah Valley to honor JMU softball's Lauren Bernett.

Both Bridgewater and Eastern Mennonite University have expressed their condolences toward the Dukes via both the players wearing purple ribbons to honor JMU softball and the Royals sending a personal letter to JMU Athletic Director Jeff Bourne, EMU head coach J.D. McCurdy said.

There's been an outpouring of support from the entire softball community for the JMU community following Bernett's death beyond the immediate locales. For JMU softball, it canceled the remainder of its season on Monday — Bourne said that the decision came about after talking to the team. An "overwhelming majority" of the Dukes said they didn't feel up to playing out the season, he said Tuesday at a joint press conference with Vice President for Student Affairs Tim Miller.

When EMU heard what happened, McCurdy

said his team wanted to do anything they could to help, understanding how important supporting JMU softball coach Loren LaPorte and the rest of the softball team is right now. They hoped they could be a helping hand, he said.

"We always want to reach out and support because we are a close-knit community here in this [Shenandoah] Valley," McCurdy said. "Our team was so ready to reach out to JMU softball and the JMU community. Our mission is to help and support in any way we can when tragic events such as that one happen. We're willing to support and our [team] is willing to step up and do their part."

Eagles head coach Megan Pleskovic said her team supported JMU by wearing purple ribbons and was especially important to them. The Eagles have worn ribbons for different purposes this season, including green ribbons recognizing mental health and the purple ones for JMU, and it's a special way of expressing themselves on the field, she said.

"I think wearing the ribbons is just a way for everybody to show support, especially in softball," Pleskovic said. "After our Feb. 1 incident, we had a blue ribbon game this year

and when we went to Randolph-Macon, we wore green ribbons to support mental health ... So ribbons in softball is a big way we can show support while on the field."

Bourne said support from all programs across the country is significant when dealing with tragedies. Going a step further, the local support from the likes of Bridgewater and EMU means that much more, Bourne said.

"That [support has] been not just within the sport of softball," Bourne said. "It's been across the country from numerous colleagues and numerous programs. So I think all of us realize it's day to day. It was JMU today to be somebody else tomorrow, and then we're all susceptible to it. I think the important thing is just knowing that there's love and care out there across the board for when you experience loss. It's certainly one of the hardest things to go through for a family or university than an athletic program."

Grant Johnson contributed to this report.

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Bridgewater softball wore purple ribbons in the ODAC tournament to honor Lauren Bernett.
Photos courtesy of Lynn Walsh



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Student manager Justin Willett screams inside Atlantic Union Bank Center at the men's basketball game vs. U.Va. Dec. 7. Breeze file photo



JMU fans give ovation for kicker Ethan Ratke at the spring game. Savannah Reger / The Breeze

A LOOK BACK

The sports desk shares its favorite moments from the year

By **SPORTS DESK**
The Breeze

History made, overtime game-winners and a conference realignment captured the essence of the 2021-22 athletic year for JMU. As the season winds down, The Breeze sports desk picks their favorite moments from the year.

Madison Hricik:

Swim & Dive captures ECAC Open Conference title This season, JMU student-athletes experienced realignment, a conference ban, adjusting to post-pandemic life and, most recently, the death of one of their own. But the swim & dive Dukes found a way to still win a conference title despite the CAA, earning a fifth straight title. Their journey from tears of heartbreak to tears of joy was a "full circle moment," and it's regarded as one of the most impactful wins of the season for the JMU swim & dive.

Grant Johnson:

JMU men's basketball edges out CoC, 95-94 This game will inevitably sit a notch below the U.Va. game in the allure of JMU men's basketball history. Regardless, it was an underrated game that deserves notoriety: There was an ejected fan. The shot clock broke. Justin Amadi's jersey got stained with blood, causing him to change into No. 12 with no last name on the back. In the 2 1/2 hour marathon where no end seemed near until the final buzzer blared, JMU pulled it out, 95-94. JMU head coach Mark Byington told the smattering of media postgame that if people aren't going to the AUBC to watch the Dukes, they're missing out. I couldn't help but agree after this back-and-forth, fast-paced treat I got to cover.

Savannah Reger:

JMU men's basketball beats U.Va. I typically arrive 40 minutes before the start of any game I cover. It gives me time to quietly set up. Not when JMU beat U.Va., though. The AUBC was packed hours out, I squeezed my way through people and I had to scream to my former co-editor during the game. But it was after that moment when the players were screaming, fans were on their seats and the court was swarmed that JMU felt pure happiness. After everything that's happened this year, the team needed that and covering it is an experience I'll never forget.

John Breeden:

Track & field hosts JMU invite, notch seven first-placers One of my favorite moments reporting for The Breeze was interviewing Maggie Linton after she placed first in the 800-meter run. When I asked what it meant to her to be a senior and place first in the home meet, she got emotional and poured her heart out to me, saying what it meant to be a part of the team. I was so happy I got to capture that moment.

Craig Mathias:

JMU men's soccer beats U.Va. Beating a team for the first time in 41 years is a moment in itself. When it happens to be against U.Va., it's just that much sweeter for JMU. Melker Anshelm scored the winner at 108' and sent Sentara Park into a frenzy. The double-overtime game on a chilly September night was one to remember for the Dukes, and it was one I'll remember for a long time.

Zach Mendenhall:

JMU falls to Villanova on family weekend Although this game saw the Dukes narrowly lose 28-27 against Villanova, I remember the game taking place on parent's weekend and my family being there to watch it. Not only did that make the game better, but it was a wild game that saw JMU score zero points in the second half and redshirt senior kicker Ethan Ratke hitting the post on two consecutive field goals. I still remember the feeling I have from witnessing that and thinking to myself, "How did JMU blow this lead?" It's a moment I play back in my head today.

Will Moran:

10th inning walk-off seals game one for the Dukes, 5-4 After going down 4-2 in the seventh, JMU baseball's Diamond Dukes rallied with a run in the eighth and ninth to send the game to extra innings. Reifsnider came to the plate with two men on base and sent one off the right field wall for a walk-off RBI double to win the game and the series. Watching the team come together celebrating that moment and then being able to interview Reifsnider after the fact was very memorable.



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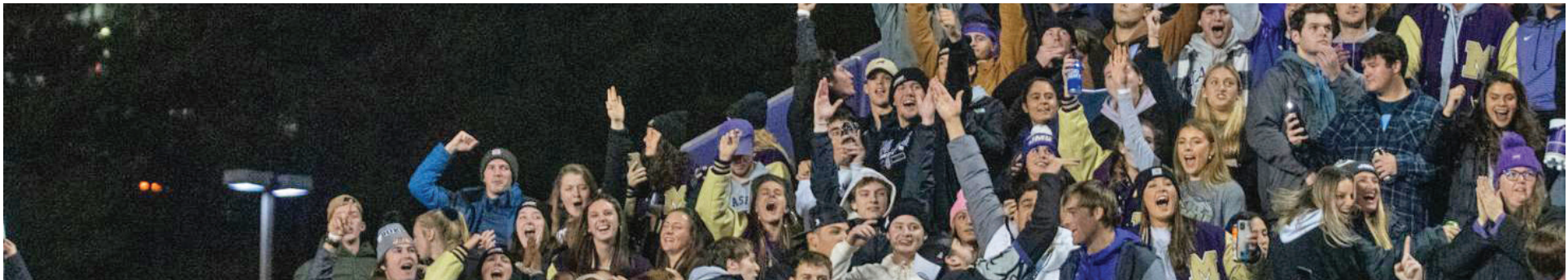
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JMU students cheer on the Dukes versus Montana in football's final FCS playoff home game Dec. 10. Breeze file photo

Connor Harris

JMU men's basketball downs future Sun Belt foe ODU, 58-53 This one felt like the beginning of a burgeoning rivalry. In its first Division I game of the season, JMU basketball welcomed its future conference foe to Harrisonburg, and it was a battle throughout the contest. The Dukes scored 30 points off the bench and fended off a late Monarchs comeback to win 58-53. If this is what the future of Sun Belt basketball looks like, JMU fans are in for a treat.

Ryan McGowan

JMU women's basketball beats Delaware to close the season JMU women's basketball knew its season was over going into the final games of the season since an at-large bid was out of reach and the CAA ban prevented them from competing in the conference tournament. That didn't stop the team from coming together and playing one of their best games of the year to close the season, a double-digit victory against Delaware, the eventual CAA Conference Tournament winner. Kiki Jefferson went toe-to-toe with recent WNBA draft pick Jasmine Dickey, and led her team to a 14-point victory on senior night. The victory provided a great goodbye for seniors like Brianna Tinsley, Jaylin Carodine and

Madison Green, while also giving the Dukes a positive end for the season and something to build on for next year.

Graham Skinker

JMU baseball defeats Virginia Tech at home, 5-2 JMU baseball defeated the Virginia Tech Hokies for the first time in 11 years this spring. The Dukes jumped out to an early 4-0 lead and never trailed in the game. A two-run homer from Kyle Novak helped JMU defeat an in-state foe for the first time in over a decade.

Logan Skinner

Ethan Ratke sets NCAA record for points scored by a kicker Senior redshirt kicker Ethan Ratke set numerous records during his time as JMU's placekicker, but none are more notable than becoming the NCAA's all-time leader in points scored by a kicker. With a career-high six field goals against William & Mary on Nov. 13, Ratke surpassed Zane Gonzalez for first place. Ratke will be remembered as the greatest kicker in FCS history and the most underrated Duke of all time.

Jackson Hephner

JMU beats Montana in their final FCS home game With all the excitement around the beginning of a new era of JMU football in the FBS, it's important to remember that it's the end of an era as well. After 50 years, two championships, 24 NFL players, multiple expansions of Bridgeforth Stadium and hundreds of home games, JMU football played its final FCS home game against Montana in the NCAA Quarterfinals, winning 28-6. JMU's time in the FCS wasn't perfect, but there's something about this game that feels bittersweet. It's the end of an era, and while the future for JMU football is bright, I still believe JMU's time in the FCS will be remembered fondly by the fans who got to be there to see it.

Honorable mentions

Volleyball sweeps Towson following CAA postseason ban After finding out the Dukes weren't allowed to participate in the CAA tournament, JMU hosted Towson for the first matchup since 2019. In a packed Godwin Hall, JMU swept the Tigers to tie for first in the conference.

JMU softball is honored at Bridgeforth Stadium after OKC run For the first time since the Women's College World Series appearance, the 2021 softball team reunited to celebrate its run in front of JMU faithful. While playing the tribute video, the Dukes received a standing ovation, and former third baseman Lindsey Meeks was honored with the "Meeks Cam."

Holden Koons wins hometown match versus Morgan State After convincing his head coach to host a neutral site match in his hometown, Koons put on a show for his former tennis club, leading the Dukes to take down Morgan State and help aid his case as the top singles player in the conference.

Women's basketball opens AUBC with a win against U.Va. For the first time at full capacity, JMU women's basketball hosted in-state foe U.Va. to open the season and the brand-new arena. In what head coach Sean O'Regan called "amazing," JMU took down the Cavaliers in front of over 3,000 fans.

CONTACT the sports desk at breesports@gmail.com. For more sports coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.

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Thursday, May 5, 2022

FOR RELEASE MAY 2, 2022

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Former Yankee slugger, familiarly
5 Barrel of laughs
9 "Joy of Cooking" writer Rombauer
13 Take away
15 Skeleton prefix
16 Is sorry about
17 *Chilled caffeinated drink
19 ___-lock brakes
20 Pt. of HDTV
21 ___ facto
22 "Moby-Dick" ship
24 Slim woodwind
26 Not well
27 "Star Wars" pilot Dameron
28 *Cold War barrier
32 Blueprints
33 Orderly
34 Comply with
38 Frying liquids
39 Holy book
40 Small valley
41 Ward on "FBI"
42 Brazilian berry
43 Medicinal units
44 *Close-knit, influential group
47 Legal org.
50 LummoX
51 Peters out
52 Tearjerker featuring Anna Chlumsky in her feature-film debut
54 Ceramics oven
56 "___ the season ..."
59 Radar screen spot
60 *English name of a West African republic
63 Refrain syllables
64 Majorino of "Veronica Mars"
65 Cosmetician Lauder
66 Meadow moms
67 Affirmative votes
68 Pass (through) slowly

DOWN

- 1 In the thick of
2 Risotto grain
3 Part of the Three Musketeers' credo
4 Lemon
5 NFL officials

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By Robert E.L. Morris

5/2/22

- 6 The 411
7 "___ of Girls' Things": poem by Sharon Olds
8 Metal tab that protects a shoe
9 Baghdad's country
10 Accumulate, as charges
11 "Same here!"
12 "All kidding ___ ..."
14 Descendants
18 Oil cartel acronym
23 "Riverdale" actor Goree
25 Tiny potted tree
26 Slanted, as a typeface
28 1970s tennis star Nastase
29 Worldwide humanitarian gp.
30 Concrete-reinforcing rod
31 "Sorry, can't help ya"
32 Spots to buy stamps: Abbr.
35 Mid-American Conference university in Indiana

B STUMPED?

FIND THE ANSWERS ONLINE

WWW.BREEZJMU.ORG/SITE/CROSSWORD_ANSWERS/

- 36 Actress Fanning
37 "Of course!"
39 Triteness
43 Royal son
45 Fin. neighbor
46 In a lazy way
47 Saunter
48 Internal regulation for a club
49 Nimble
53 Hoppy brews, briefly
54 Beer company based in Hawaii
55 Some nest eggs, for short
57 Words of comprehension, and a phonetic hint for the answers to the starred clues
58 Dance move
61 "C'est la ___!"
62 CIA predecessor

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	9						6	
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JOB

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Do you want a part-time job that has meaning and provides a service that directly impacts the local community? If so, consider applying to the City of Harrisonburg's Bus Driver - Transit (Transit Bus Operator) position! Preferred hiring range: \$16.12 - \$16.62 per hour. Find out more/apply online: <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/employment>. EOE.



Career Opportunity - Administrative Specialist

Are you looking for a rewarding career that allows you to utilize your administrative skills to make an impact on a variety of public transportation services offered in Harrisonburg? If so, apply for the City of Harrisonburg Public Transportation Department's Administrative Specialist position! Find out more/apply online: <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/employment>. EOE.



Career Opportunity - Program Support Specialist

Are you looking for a rewarding career that allows you to utilize your administrative skills to make an impact in the local community? If so, consider applying for the City of Harrisonburg Public Transportation Department's Program Support Specialist career! Find out more/apply online at: <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/employment>. EOE.



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Career Opportunity - General/Program Supervisor (Street Maintenance)

Are you searching for a career opportunity in street maintenance that allows you to have the best of both worlds: leadership and field work? If so, consider applying to the City of Harrisonburg Public Works Department's General/Program Supervisor - Street Maintenance position! Find out more/apply online: <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/employment>. EOE.



Seasonal Job Opportunity - Customer Service Specialist (Golf)

Are you looking for a seasonal job that allows you to safely interact with others in a fun environment at the award-winning Heritage Oaks Golf Course? If so, apply for the City of Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department's Customer Service Specialist - Golf position! Find out more/apply online: <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/employment>. EOE.



Human Resources Opportunity - Learning & Development Specialist

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