

The Breeze

JMU'S AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER SINCE 1922

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Professors sound alarm on noticeably high student absences in general education courses



By **LIZZIE STONE**
The Breeze

At the Dec. 1, 2022, faculty senate meeting, professors discussed at length low attendance and grades in their classes in the fall semester, particularly in general education (GenEd) courses. Professors shared their own stories as well as anecdotes from their colleagues. Associate psychology professor Kala Melchiori said in the Zoom meeting comments, "Anecdotally - attendance and grades are the lowest they have ever been in my 6 years here."

Students have felt it, too. Keira Johnson said in her classes last semester, she noticed consistently lower attendance in her GenEd classes than her major classes.

Dennis Beck, coordinator of the arts and humanities GenEd cluster, said many GenEd professors have noticed reduced attendance since the return from the pandemic. While some reported consistent attendance for their lectures, others saw large numbers of absences. Students who miss a significant number of lectures are performing more poorly on exams and sometimes argue with professors about low grades, he said.

"Half or more of what's in the class is either information that [the professor] is providing, things that they discuss, videos that are being shown, or experiences and activities that he's doing. And the students are missing out on those," Beck said. "It worries faculty for reasons that have to do not only with their own experiences, but with national studies and data about attendance and its effect."

Associate psychology professor Kala Melchiori said JMU is in conversations with faculty about illness and mental health absences and encourages faculty to set their own attendance policies. Photo illustration by Ryan Sauer / The Breeze

see **ATTENDANCE**, page 5

JMU alum receives Presidential Citizens Medal from Biden

By **ASHLYN CAMPBELL**
The Breeze

On Jan. 6, 2021, Harry Dunn thought he was going to die.

The former JMU offensive lineman ('05) and current private first class of the U.S. Capitol Police stood on the west terrace of the U.S. Capitol building witnessing a "sea of people" assault police officers on the west lawn, according to his written testimony to the Select Jan. 6 Committee. Throughout the attack on the Capitol, Dunn helped other officers recover from chemical irritants and prevented other rioters from reaching injured officers, while enduring racial slurs from the rioters.

Throughout the following two years, Dunn would continue his work at the Capitol, testify to Congress about his experience and demand accountability for those responsible for the riot.

About two weeks ago, on this year's anniversary of the insurrection, Dunn stood next to President Joe Biden (D) and was honored with the Presidential Citizens Medal for his service on Jan. 6 and beyond, for an event now forever etched into the annals of American history.

JMU's impact

Dunn came to campus in October 2021 after JMU's Madison Center for Civic Engagement partnered with Dukes LEAD to share his experiences with the JMU community and said coming from Washington, D.C., the beauty of JMU drew him in.

"The community there... makes you feel at home," Dunn said.

Dunn chose JMU mostly for football, but after touring the campus twice before committing, he said, "it was just a perfect fit." He played for the Dukes when they won the 2004 National Championship against Montana, a memory Dunn said sticks with him. Despite the distance, the JMU community traveled to support the team. Celebrating with them on the field was "epic," he said.

Graduating with a degree in health sciences, Dunn started in law enforcement after attending a career fair where the Capitol Police drew him in. Even as a kid, the role of being a police officer was always there, he said, but his desire to be a police officer stemmed from his care for people.

"I have the desire to want to help people, and public service, law enforcement, was suitable for me," Dunn said.

see **DUNN**, page 4

'Iris' magazine launches a new chapter

By **EVAN MOODY**
The Breeze

"Welcome to 'Iris.' We hope we'll be around for a long time."

These words, written by Haley Huchler, a senior media arts and design and English double major, greet readers in the first issue of the latest successor in JMU's long line of

literary and arts magazines.

This edition, with the revamp to "Iris," was released Dec. 14, a little over a year after the final issue of the previous magazine, "Temper."

Copies line stands in Wilson, Harrison, Keezell and Miller halls. Apart from print magazines, the issue is also available online.

Erica Cavanagh, an English

professor and the faculty adviser for "Iris," said the "Temper" publication had "gone fallow as many things apparently did during the pandemic." Over the past summer, however, Cavanagh began reaching out to creative writing minors to help reinstate the magazine.

see **IRIS**, page 10

McDaniel returns to women's hoops amid win streak

By **MADISON HRICIK**
The Breeze

Every Tuesday during the 2021-22 season, JMU women's basketball head coach Sean O'Regan had the same frustrated expression across his face when asked about then-sophomore guard Peyton McDaniel's status.

O'Regan said then that he wanted to make sure McDaniel wasn't rushed during her rehabilitation from a knee injury. It took longer than the Dukes expected.

"Peyton was like, 'Can you?' 'No,

you can't. Let's try this,'" O'Regan said during the 2022-23 preseason. "She had a much more up-and-down progression."

It was announced in early January 2022 that McDaniel would be out for the season. The Dukes needed McDaniel in conference play and finished last season 14-15 (10-8 CAA).

Fast forward 11 months, McDaniel is averaging 10.8 points per game in 16 games with at least eight points in her last eight of nine games.

Senior guard Kiki Jefferson put it

bluntly — "Peyton's back."

"I'm so excited for her," Jefferson said in the preseason about McDaniel's return. "She deserves it if it's anybody."

The 6-foot guard injured her knee during preseason, just before JMU hosted UVa. in the first full-capacity game inside the Atlantic Union Bank Center on Nov. 9, 2021. Before that, she was the CAA Rookie of the Year and the third freshman in program history to score 30 points in a game.

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UPCOMING IN JMU ATHLETICS

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Savannah Reger / The Breeze



Ryan Sauer / The Breeze

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MISSION

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‘Humbling experience’

Biden recognizes JMU alum for work as Capitol Police officer on Jan. 6, 2021

from **DUNN**, page 1

Dunn credits his time as a student-athlete for the mindset he brings into law enforcement — teaching him perseverance, the fortitude to keep going “even when nobody was around” and the importance of teamwork and the camaraderie of brotherhood.

“I mean, we’d be out there at five in the morning running stadium steps when everybody else was asleep, and it’s freezing cold outside,” Dunn said. “It kind of taught that when things get hard you got to keep going.”

Jan. 6 and beyond

That mindset to be strong, “forged through playing football,” Dunn said, helped when times got difficult. Even after his experience Jan. 6, he still works with the Capitol Police. As a member of the first responders unit (FIU), Dunn said, he helps protect Congressmembers. Dunn said people often ask him how long it took him to return to work after the insurrection — he was back in the Capitol the very next day, he said.

“It was my responsibility to show up, no matter what I had been through the night before,” Dunn said.

On Jan. 6, 2021, it was his duty to protect the Capitol, he said. Every day after, though, Dunn uses his personal life to push for accountability. He’s testified in committee hearings, spoken on TV and given talks at universities — including JMU.

“[We did] what we’re supposed to do when we take our oath, to protect this country, to protect the, you know, protect the Constitution,” Dunn said. “I go to work, I do my job and then I get on my soapbox and demand y’all don’t forget that shit. This is an individual crusade that I’m on, although there are millions of people behind me.”

The Presidential Citizens Medal, established by former president Richard Nixon, is the second-highest civilian award in the U.S., second only to the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The purpose, according to the executive order that established the honor, is to recognize “citizens of the United States of America who have performed exemplary deeds of service for their country or their fellow citizens.”

To be honored with the medal, Dunn said, not only for his job but also for his advocacy afterward was a “humbling experience.”

“It created a new memory of that day,” Dunn said. “It will always exist, like that memory of that day, but now I have, like it’s diluted a little bit now with the overwhelming proud memory.”

Dunn was driving when he found out he was receiving the award and said he dropped his phone in shock. Holding the heavy gold medal, engraved with his name on the back, he said he was “in awe” when he found out and continues to be even after receiving it.

Alongside Dunn, Biden recognized 12 other people with the medal, including former

Metropolitan Police Department officer Michael Fanone, Capitol Police officer Eugene Goodman and late Capitol Police officer Brian Sicknick.

“And history will remember your names,” Biden said, speaking to the award winners, according to a transcript of his remarks. “They’ll remember your courage. They’ll remember your bravery. They’ll remember your extraordinary commitments to your fellow Americans.”

Biden noted that Dunn’s own congressman, Jamie Raskin (D), who wasn’t in attendance for the medal presentation, said Dunn showed “remarkable courage and valor to defend both our institutions and our people.”

Two years after the breach of the Capitol, there are still ripple effects in and outside of America. The final report from the investigation conducted by the Select January 6 Committee that Dunn testified at was released in December.

Dunn said while he’s appreciative of the work the committee has done to present the facts of Jan. 6, 2021, especially since it came at great political costs to some members of the committee, the country has only grown more divided and not everyone has been held accountable.

“People are always going to downplay what we went through,” Dunn said. “You say to somebody, ‘All right, what can I show you? What can I say to you? What can I do to make you believe what happened?’ There are literally people that have just said nothing.”

Dunn said while he doesn’t think it’s possible to fully heal from what happened, getting to the root of the hurt and learning to move through life regardless of the circumstances can keep people going.

“This is our life now,” Dunn said. “I just only suggest you pick your circle of friends, people you associate with, carefully, because it can be draining emotionally.”

Outside of America, just two days after the second anniversary of Jan. 6, Brazil’s new government had its own reckoning — one that looked vastly similar to the events of Jan. 6, 2021 — following an election that ousted former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro. There have been reports that allies of Trump had ties to the riot, according to The Washington Post.

Dunn said while he didn’t watch the Brazilian insurrection happen in real time — explaining that he avoided coverage because it would be difficult for him to watch — he heard about the events from the news.

“That’s why it’s so important to nip this shit in the bud ... what happened here, because [of] what’s happening in other countries,” Dunn said. “It’s gonna happen again here.”

Moving forward, Dunn said people need to be involved in politics. Some political causes, Dunn said, are “holding on by a thread” with the potential policy changes from new state and

congressional representatives recently elected.

“People need to be engaged, people need to care who they send to Congress,” Dunn said. “They need to care who is in the school board, they need to care who’s their local county council member, you need to care about that kind of stuff because that’s where it starts.”

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Ben Monse / The Breeze

JMU expands commuter parking

By **NEWS DESK**
The Breeze

Beginning this semester, JMU has expanded commuter parking in Warsaw Avenue Parking Deck, reallocating an additional 53 spots for commuters, according to Mary-Hope Vass, executive director of communications and university spokesperson for JMU.

In an email to The Breeze, Vass said once JMU finishes relocating and reinstalling the space-counting sensor equipment in the parking deck, another four spaces will be added for commuters, bringing the total number of newly reallocated commuter spots to 57.

Vass said Parking and Transit Services conducts lot usage surveys to determine how to best allocate the number of parking spaces available to benefit as many constituents as possible. Surveys conducted indicated that the Warsaw Avenue Parking Deck regularly had an

excess of faculty and staff parking, Vass said, causing Parking and Transit Services to propose to the Parking Advisory Committee, which is chaired by the Vice President of Administration & Finance Towana Moore and made up of various JMU faculty and staff, that some of the spaces be reallocated for student commuter use. The Parking Advisory Committee approved the proposal and the reallocation took place over winter break.

At this time, Vass said the university doesn’t have plans to expand commuter parking in any other parking decks or lots on campus, but that it’s “always possible” future changes in parking allocations may be made based on information gathered from lot usage surveys.

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



Currently, an additional 53 spots have been reallocated in Warsaw Avenue Parking Deck for commuters. Ryan Sauer / The Breeze



Political science professor Kerry Crawford said in GenEd classes and large lectures especially, professors notice an increase in absences following midterms. Ben Moulse / *The Breeze*

Abundance of absences

GenEd courses face lower student attendance, professors say

from **ATTENDANCE**, page 1

Johnson said she thinks most of the absences stem from a lack of motivation — “nobody just wants to get a bad grade,” she said.

“I think it’s motivation to get out of bed or motivation to drive to campus or whatever it may be,” Johnson said. “I don’t think people take [GenEd classes] seriously.”

Melchiori said the university has been having conversations with faculty about illness and mental health and tends to lean heavily toward allowing professors to set their own attendance policies. She said policies could be frustrating for students who want the university to do more in helping them navigate absences and mental health resources.

“Their interactions with faculty so far have been a lot of volunteer-based training and information,” Melchiori said. “We did have mandatory training in the fall on how to help identify students who might be struggling with their mental health ... but I think a lot of it depends on just individual faculty who may or may not be motivated to pursue this training and this information.”

Kerry Crawford, associate professor of political science, continues to offer a Zoom option for her lectures as a possible solution. Sick students are still able to participate in class from home, although she said it isn’t a complete substitute for being physically present in class. She reported that her students have found the Zoom option helpful in alleviating the stress of being sick throughout the semester.

“Everybody is adapting after a major rupture,” Crawford said, referring to the pandemic. “I think both for faculty and students, for all of us, we’re going to handle that in different ways, so some people might be struggling more with in-person classes.”

By providing access to her lectures on Zoom, Crawford said she’s noticed steady attendance throughout the semesters with an online option, even when students might typically stop coming to class. Especially in GenEd classes and large lectures, attendance often drops off after midterms, she said.

One group that looked into national increases in student absences is the Chronicle of Higher Education, which published an article on students disengagement on campuses across the country. Professors told the Chronicle about rising mental health concerns among their students along with greater disengagement and anxiety. Similar problems are being experienced in higher education across the country.

Throughout the last few semesters since the pandemic, more attention has been given to student mental health and the need

to take time off for illnesses, with policies such as self-care notes that allow students to self-report illnesses and work with professors. In the Dec. 1 faculty senate meeting, professors responded with concerns about the need to balance student needs while reinforcing attendance policies.

“The absence [policies] that the faculty and the student work out is still in your control,” JMU Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Heather Coltman told faculty at the meeting. “That’s your choice.”

Another GenEd professor said many students in his classes last semester seemed to feel like they could send an email notifying him and miss as many classes as they needed to. The professor requested anonymity, saying he was subject to pushback from students surrounding this topic last semester and wanted to avoid further conflict. His policy had been to give a week and a half of excused absences in case of illness, he said, but he removed that limit at the end of the semester because of the sheer number of missed classes. Half of his students exceeded the amount of absences allowed by the syllabus, with some even missing class for consecutive months.

“In the end, I didn’t even count absences because I couldn’t think of a fair way to give some extra breaks to some people, not to others,” the professor said. “So the idea of notes and all that doesn’t seem to work, really. There’s no accountability with that.”

He also discussed the changing correlation between attendance and grades. Those at the top of the class still had near-perfect attendance, but the rest of the grades were more spread out than in previous years. He said students’ attitudes toward the class seemed to have changed.

“There seemed to be an idea that wasn’t as strong in the past that you don’t have to come to class,” the professor said. “You could just take a list of vocabulary lists like this, and just look them all up on the internet, and study that way without coming into class. And there seems to have been some success with that, I’ll tell you the truth, because my tests are vocabulary-oriented.”

He said one student was upset when he brought up her low attendance as a factor in her poor final exam score, and she questioned how much effort she could really be expected to give when the class wasn’t for her major.

Other students often have conversations about the importance of taking GenEd classes that don’t necessarily appeal to their interests. Some connect higher rates of absences to classes that students feel are less valuable.

“I still like making an effort to go to my GenEd classes because I do want to get a good grade,” Johnson said. “But there

are some times where I can justify missing a GenEd class, but I can’t justify missing a major class because of [its] importance.”

According to Beck, the GenEd curriculum is an important addition to whatever major a student focuses on. General courses provide context to how different disciplines fit into the world and a background for students to figure out their own goals and career options, he said.

“JMU is a different experience than going to a community college or a vocational school,” Beck said. “And we’re not a vocational school on steroids, we are qualitatively different. One of the key things that makes that different is the fact that, like almost every university in the country, there is some sort of core program that gives students a more generalized familiarity with many experiences in the world.”

The GenEd curriculum also gives students a flexibility and foundation of critical thinking and empathy that Beck argues will allow students to better navigate the world and compete for jobs. Previous university graduates completed a rigorous liberal arts education, and brushing off those classes will put students at a disadvantage, he said.

“My worry is that maybe there is an additional erosion of the understanding of general education amongst students, and therefore maybe they aren’t attending,” Beck said. “I haven’t heard there is nearly as much problem with attendance in major courses, as I have in general education courses.”

Among those trying to adapt their classes to changing student needs is Melchiori. She didn’t grade attendance last semester but tracked it with a daily check-in poll. Removing the grade penalty turned attendance into more of an incentive for a higher grade, she said.

“I did plot absences with exam grades and overall grades in the course,” Melchiori said. “For students who missed this substantial amount of in class time, it did affect their grade, although I wasn’t the one enforcing that penalty on them.”

Melchiori said the pandemic disrupted important years of school for many students and is one of the reasons some are still trying to structure routines and regulate time. She said she tries to keep flexibility in her classes and meet students where they are.

“I tried to use care in my syllabi, my policies for students,” Melchiori said. “I think if we truly try to infuse that value into the decisions we make at the university, we can probably make some progress.”

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Worldwide learning

Retiring professors create scholarships for study-abroad students

By **JASMINE MOORE**
contributing writer

Two retiring JMU professors, Neil Marrin and Tassie Pippert, have founded the Marrin and Pippert Scholarship Endowment for Study Abroad & Experiential Learning to support study abroad efforts for students from the Hart School of Hospitality, Sport and Recreation Management.

The \$25,000 endowment will help one student study abroad each year, contributing \$1,000 to each recipient, awarded annually. It'll focus on providing students with experiential learning opportunities abroad. Marrin and Pippert said they plan to award more scholarships in the future, but until the scholarship expands, there'll only be one recipient annually.

"For us, this was like a major gift that the university gave to us as faculty," Pippert said. "The ability to be with students as their eyes were opened to a global world, not just to Harrisonburg or New Jersey or the U.S."

Marrin and Pippert are raising money for the scholarship, and anyone can donate. The professors said they hope continuing to build up the funds will help more students receive the scholarship. JMU doesn't provide any funding for the faculty-named endowments. The only money they're receiving is donations from donors.

"The great thing about this, and one of the reasons why we open it, is because there are a lot of people out there who want to support students, but they can't go the full \$25,000 alone," Pippert said. "Well, they can jump on this bandwagon and be part of something that's going to continue to grow."

Marrin and Pippert have been colleagues since Marrin came to JMU, and they decided to collaborate on the project when both had plans to retire this year. Marrin, newly retired after the fall semester, started working at JMU in 2010. Pippert, who's been at JMU since 2005, plans to retire in September after leading one last study abroad trip to Florence, Italy, this summer.

The two first met when JMU merged the restaurant management program with sports and recreation management to form the Hart

School in 2010. They've become close colleagues, they said, and in the midst of planning their retirements, they realized they wanted to give back to students in some way — thus creating the scholarship. Since both professors have led multiple study abroad trips world wide, they said, they wanted more students to have that opportunity.

"I just think it's very important to allow students to have the opportunity outside of sitting those butts in those seats," Pippert said. "You know, there's just a different way to learn and when they are in it, there's nothing like that."

Marrin said one of his students, after studying abroad, opened her mind to new social situations that she wouldn't have before her trip. The student was on a flight back from Ireland, Marrin remembered when she normally would've put her headphones in and zoned out but instead had a three-hour conversation with an Irish passenger sitting next to her on the plane. Afterward, the student told Marrin she'd never done that before studying abroad.

Marrin described studying abroad as learning about Michelangelo, a famous Italian sculptor — not inside a museum, he said, but because you're right down the road from where he made his art. Being able to experience the art in Florence, taste the food in France and see new places and history opens a new door to learning, Pippert said. That's what the professors want to assist with: giving students the chance to explore these new things across the world.

"You know, if they want to honor us in any way, and they always ask, 'What can I get you for your retirement?' Well, we now have this beautiful thing that will grow in perpetuity that's all about us and the students together," Pippert said. "It's all about those who have come before and those who will come later, and they can continue to give to this scholarship to support students who will be here long after they've gone and long after we've gone."

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The second Gus Bus re-wrap is expected to be unveiled on Jan. 30. Courtesy of Jolynne Bartley

Revamped

Gus Bus redesign celebrates 20 years of community enrichment

By **ASHLEE THOMPSON**
The Breeze

The Gus Bus, an after-school enrichment program for elementary school students in Harrisonburg, has recently undergone a transformation — one that highlights local landmarks with the hope of bringing the community together.

Founded in 2003, the Gus Bus is a program based within JMU's Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services (IIHHS), a department of the College of Health and Behavioral Services (CHBS) that brings creative and literacy learning to K-5th grade students, according to its website.

Jolynne Bartley, the associate director of children and youth services at IIHHS, said the Gus Bus has changed a lot in the past 20 years, which is what sparked the redesign.

At its beginning, the Gus Bus vehicles traveled exclusively to local preschools to help kids prepare for kindergarten, Bartley said. Later, the program started offering its services to students up through fifth grade in many Harrisonburg neighborhoods.

Rachel Gagliardi, the Gus Bus program director, said the most well-known part of the Gus Bus is its mobile-classroom vehicles. These vehicles travel to various Harrisonburg neighborhoods during after-school hours to offer children enrichment where the students do "fun, experimental activities" and work with academic professionals to increase literacy and creative skills, according to the Gus Bus website. Gagliardi said the students come inside the parked vehicle to read stories and complete related activities.

Gagliardi said the buses come equipped with libraries and shelf-stable food from the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank for the children to take home.

Along with the mobile vehicles, the Gus Bus program offers students in-school enrichment in areas of literacy, creativity, and gardening, as well as homework help and tutoring, according to the Gus Bus website. Gagliardi estimates that the Gus Bus helps roughly 200 students every week.

Along with the change in program, the Gus Bus team hoped a redesign would create a refreshing, cooler look to keep students interested and fix the natural wear and tear, Gagliardi and Bartley said.

"We've had an established logo since 2003 that was a bunny riding a cart stacked with books," Bartley said. "His ears were flying back behind him to give you that visual of movement in motion. We knew we wanted to honor that original logo."

After the new logo was completed in fall 2021, the

next step was to create a new bus design. Bartley and the Gus Bus team worked with Josh See, a CHBS Creative Services graphic designer, to create the bus' new look.

The old buses had an all-white exterior with the logo slapped on the side. The new Gus Bus, which rolled out this fall, features iconic landmarks throughout the city of Harrisonburg, including an image of Wilson Hall — a landmark building on JMU's campus — across a slick blue and green background with the new bunny logo in the corner, giving the Gus Bus a pop of color.

"The inspiration for the artwork came from the Gus Buses and the area they serve," See said in an email to The Breeze. "It evolved from a graphic made years ago for the Gus Bus website, which showed one of the buses driving around a neighborhood with lots of hills and trees, representing Harrisonburg."

See took the community-centered idea from the graphic and expanded on it by adding local distinguishing landmarks.

Bartley said it was important to include parts of the community in the new artwork because the young people who come to the program interact with lots of different spaces in Harrisonburg, and IIHHS wanted to reflect that.

According to Bartley, the bus re-wraps — putting the new artwork on — take about a week to complete. One of the two buses has been re-wrapped and is active, with the second expecting to unveil on Jan. 30. See said the artwork for the second bus — which is different from the first bus — was completed last month with the help of a JMU student graphic designer, Carrie Chambers. The second bus features green hills with houses and trees on them, representing the Harrisonburg neighborhoods the bus drives through. At the top of the highest hill there's the word "LOVE" while a sunset fills the background. Each re-wrap costs around \$5,000, Gagliardi said.

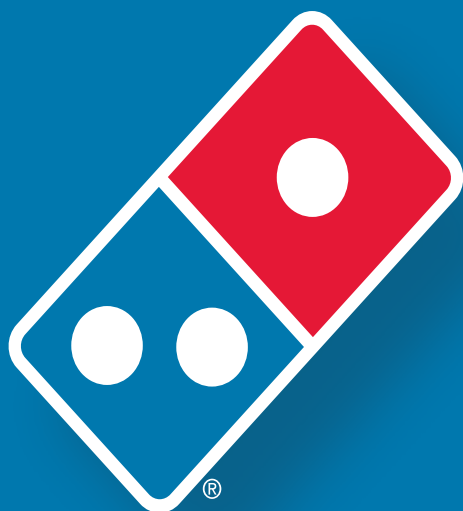
As for reactions, Gagliardi said the community loves it. See said the reaction he's heard the most is that "it just makes people smile."

"The kids were excited when that first re-wrapped bus went through the neighborhoods," Gagliardi said. "I think people are just really excited to see this upgrade for a program that has been so beloved in our community for so long."

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Neil Marrin recently retired from JMU at the end of last semester and Tassie Pippert has plans to retire in September. Courtesy of Tassie Pippert



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Thursday, January 19, 2023



Family ties

Emily DuBois (left) and sister Rebecca (right) debuted their idea for Lucky Luc, an inclusive clothing company, for the first time at the Fallon Challenge. The inspiration behind the company came from their 13-year-old sister, Lucy. Ryan Sauer / The Breeze

JMU business major sisters win scholarship for inclusive adaptive clothing company

By **CAROLINE STOAKS**
contributing writer

Lucy DuBois skis, wake surfs and rides horses, but every day, she struggles to get dressed.

As her sister, JMU junior business major Rebecca DuBois, watched 13-year-old Lucy cope with the effects of Down Syndrome on her motor skills, she wondered if there was a way to make Lucy's and others' lives easier.

Rebecca's inquiry led her to create an adaptive clothing business, Lucky Luc, which she said she started building during her freshman year of high school.

Six years later, on Nov. 1, 2022, Rebecca and her other sister, freshman business major Emily DuBois, pitched their business venture to a panel of judges and won the seventh annual Fallon Challenge. They tearfully walked off the stage with a \$1,000 scholarship — which they'll use to make a website and patent the company — provided by JMU's Rodney J. Fallon Scholarship Fund to take the first step in turning their dream into a reality.

According to The Fallon Challenge website, the scholarship event is a "Shark Tank"-style competition created in honor of the late Fallon, an entrepreneur, a man of faith and a father of three JMU College of Business graduates. One of Fallon's daughters, Meredythe, said her father believed in including everyone, so the competition is open to students of all majors and grade levels.

Khalil Garriott ('04), the lead judge, announced the winner at the event.

"My fellow judges and I evaluated the finalists based on four criteria: passion, viability, creativity and presentation," Garriott said in an email. "All of the student entrepreneurs were so impressive in different ways, but one pitch in particular stood out to the judges as a most deserving recipient of the seventh annual Rodney J. Fallon Scholarship."

That deserving pitch was Lucky Luc.

The DuBois' business is an adaptive clothing company created to empower individuals with gross motor skill delays and special needs, Rebecca said.

The clothing line combines sensory-friendly materials and

independence-creating features such as replacing zippers and buttons with magnets and buckles. It also includes jeans with elastic waistbands and shirts designed to be worn inside out and backwards, so no matter how it's put on, it's correct.

The benefits don't stop there.

"The unemployment rate for those with disabilities is double the rate than those without, which is why Lucky Luc is committed to hiring individuals with special needs as well as creating leadership positions for them," Emily said.

Rebecca also said she wants Lucky Luc to be more than just a clothing company.

"We want Lucky Luc customers to know that not only is our clothing for them, but our company is for them as well," she said. "We are more than just adaptable clothing. We're filling the gaps in the market to empower individuals by building confidence and independence through fashion."

Judge Katie Carlton and program director of Founder's Mark said Lucky Luc struck a chord with her.

"I have a son who is on the autism spectrum and he's 9 years old and we still help him a lot with dressing," Carlton said. "So if there's something out there I would have found it by now ... and I have not seen something with clothing that is out there."

Additionally, Garriott said Lucky Luc's pitch "tugged at my heartstrings."

"I have a child who has/had gross motor delays, so it had relatability on a personal level to me," Garriott wrote. "Also, to watch the DuBois girls overcome technological hurdles during their pitch and deliver it fluidly spoke to their poise and composure. Many of us in the room either shed tears or had trouble holding them back."

What stood out to the judges, especially to president and CEO of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce, Christopher Quinn, was the sense of community and family involved, he said.

"It's unique when you've got your entire family behind it ... The three sisters together all seem to complement each other very well," Quinn said. "It was very clear with their project they were going to run through a brick wall to get this done. The

determination of all of them was there."

Lucy stood beside her sisters on stage during the presentation at The Fallon Challenge and, as the inspiration behind it all, Rebecca and Emily named her as one of the CEOs of the company.

Lucy said Lucky Luc makes her feel special. When she stood on stage with her sisters during their presentation, she said it made her feel "happy, excited and relaxed."

"Lucy inspires me to be more accepting and loving and kind with my words because the way that she presents herself as one of the most kind and loving people," Emily said. "One of my goals is, 'How can I be more like Lucy?' She's honestly just inspired me to be a better person and also to handle my emotions better."

Rebecca said watching her sister overcome challenges has inspired her to want to make a difference in life.

Lucy calls herself brave and encourages others to "be brave," too.

"I can overcome any challenge that comes my way because my life is probably a million times easier than Lucy's life is, but she's still overcoming all of these challenges," Rebecca said.

Upon winning, Rebecca said she wouldn't have worked on her idea now if it wasn't for The Fallon Challenge.

"Meredythe came into my class and she was like, if you have something that keeps you up at night and that's your passion and that's what's lighting the fire within you, then you need to pursue that idea," Rebecca said. "This has been my dream, my passion."

Moving forward, Rebecca and Emily said they plan on continuing to take necessary steps of patenting Lucky Luc, including finding designers and creating a website and a social media presence. They plan to grow their business and support the special needs community, empowering people to be like Lucy and never give up.

"Maybe one day Lucy will go to JMU and be The Fallon Challenge winner too," Rebecca said.

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Bonds through books



Hannah Ritchie, a junior industrial design major, helped create her father and his co-author's e-book, "Supply Chain Spatial Intelligence." Daria Ausen / *The Breeze*

Interdisciplinary textbook collaboration brings friends close, family closer

By K. MAUSER
contributing writer

William Ritchie and his daughter, Hannah Ritchie, have come a long way from working together to build a small book container. Now, they're putting their efforts toward the books themselves.

William, a business professor at JMU, and his associate, Joseph Kerski, teamed up with Ritchie's daughter Hannah to create an e-textbook that weaves the work of three distinct disciplines together.

"Pretty much the whole thing has been a collaborative effort," Kerski said.

William and Kerski started working on this project about 2 1/2 years ago to fill the need for a textbook that connects the study of location

and the study of business through geospatial technology, Kerski said. They're currently working on creating a second edition of the textbook, titled "Supply Chain Spatial Intelligence."

According to the textbook's description, it's written for those with no prior exposure to geographic information systems (GIS) and introduces its readers to the fundamentals of supply chain management using location analysis tools. Put simply, this textbook uses the geography of a location to better understand supply chain data. The first edition was released in October.

Kerski said he believes collaboration between such areas is necessary to promote the change they're looking for.

"To solve perplexing problems in our world, we've got to have an interdisciplinary holistic approach, which is what this [textbook] provides," he said. "Geospatial technology is — by its nature — an interdisciplinary tool ... It's one of those disruptive technologies that breaks down barriers between programs on campus. For example, between business environment and science geography."

William agreed with his co-author, who's a professor and author at Esri, a geographic information software company.

"You're not only bringing in the obvious location component, but you can stack on top of that data from the world of finance, from marketing history and from logistics supply chain demographics," William said. "You can put all of this together in the same data set and you're basically looking at layers of data for one point location."

Kerski said there are hardly any other resources that cover this topic — there are books that talk about location, but in a different way with different tools.

"We saw a great need and we want to fill it," Kerski said.

This isn't the first project William and Kerski have collaborated on, as they've worked together crafting academic and conference papers in the past, William said, though this is their first e-book.

After embarking on the project, William soon asked Hannah, a junior industrial design major at JMU, to contribute her graphic design skills to the textbook.

"When I learned that Hannah was steeped into InDesign [and] the entire Adobe Suite, that's when I got excited and realized this is a real need that Joseph and I had when it came to actually putting this e-book out there," William said.

Hannah said she was happy to help with the project and decided it would be a fitting summer job, in which she was tasked with creating a visually appealing

layout of the original text. Her contribution took from June to late August to complete.

"[My dad] handed me the InDesign document that just had the text," Hannah said. "My job was to go through and change headings to larger text, put pictures in that relate to the graphics, make a table of contents, add page numbers and stuff like that."

Hannah also said she began to see how her major can be applicable to any field. In her industrial design classes, Hannah said, she does "a lot of hands-on stuff" but some graphic design as well.

"It was really fun for me to use the skills from my major to help my dad," Hannah said. "It was cool to see [my work] apply to a field outside of the field I'm in."

William said InDesign is a specialty within all of the graphics programs at JMU, particularly within the industrial design program. He said students often make spreads using InDesign for the layout and integrating Illustrator and Photoshop.

Kerski said this ease in merging disciplines is comparable to geospatial technology as a whole. Even though he's a geographer and not a business professor, he added, he enjoys working with experts of other disciplines to encourage them to use geospatial technology.

"It's a lot of fun to be spreading this knowledge base into the other disciplines within the culture business," William said. Later this winter, he said, he hopes to continue the collaboration between himself, Kerski and Hannah.

Ultimately, the two professors said they're interested in promoting change in how supply chains are analyzed through both their research and integrating geospatial technology into the business world.

"We're really action-oriented," Kerski said. "Through education, [we hope to] change society ... Beyond the book, we really want to see geospatial [technology] used in all aspects of business."

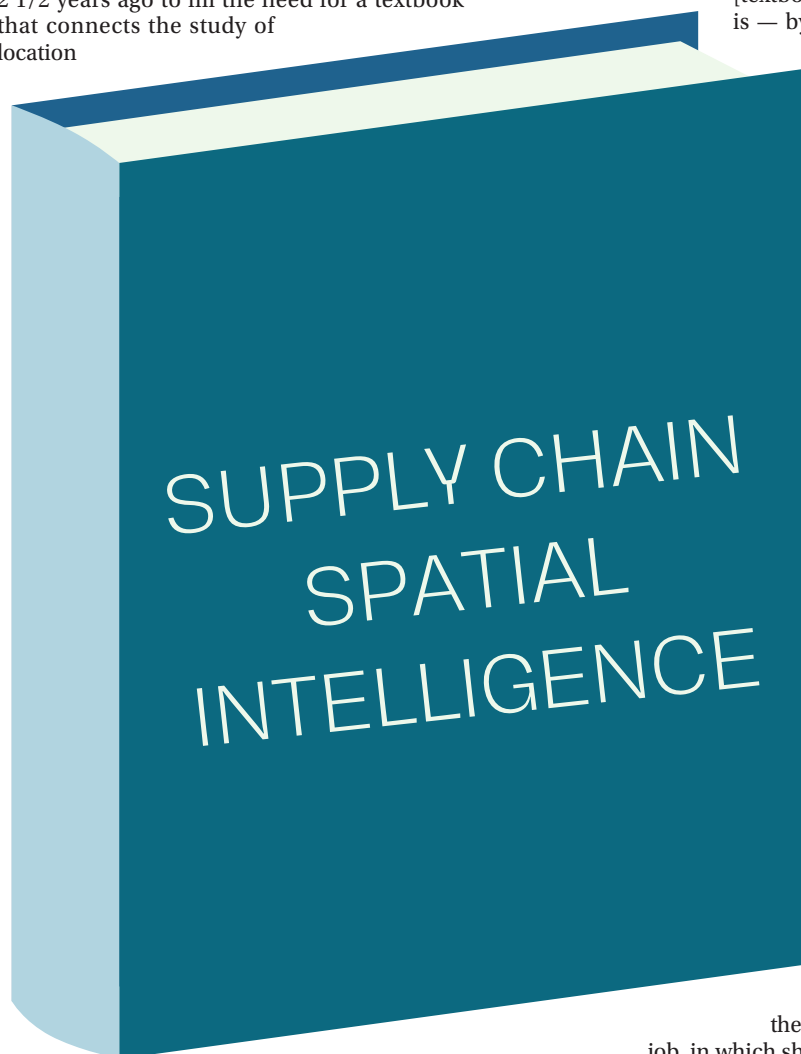
Hannah said she's eager to assist them on the next phase of this project: creating a second edition of their original textbook, which will include a chapter of advice for instructors, remote sensing and vehicle routing — all parts of the supply chain system.

William commended her "integral" efforts on the textbook and said he looks forward to working with his daughter this coming winter as it's been a "very rewarding" collaboration so far.

Although Hannah said she enjoys "seeing [their] passions integrate," she's never before collaborated with her dad on a project directly related to his work and said she enjoyed getting to spend time with him.

"I really like doing graphic design and he really likes writing creative books," Hannah said. "I think it would be really cool to combine our skills and keep doing this."

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Haley Huchler, editor-in-chief of "Iris," said the editorial staff took inspiration from the magazine's history to bring new life to it. Abi Middleton / The Breeze

eyes on the future

Revamped student-run literary and arts magazine returns to campus

from IRIS, page 1

"We were obviously reviving the magazine," Grace Keeler, the magazine's assistant editor, said. Keeler is an English and writing, rhetoric and technical communication (WRTC) double major and contributed written pieces to the issue.

After the "Temper" team members either graduated or were phased out by COVID-19, an entirely new editorial staff was created and the new name accompanied the change. Huchler was recruited for the editor-in-chief position, which she began in May. Huchler is a former staff writer for The Breeze.

Despite the name adjustment, Huchler said, editors sought inspiration from past literary and arts magazines. "Gardy Loo," another former JMU arts publication, was reviewed in the process.

"We pored over those magazines when looking, not only how to design and lay out the magazine, but also just to get a feel for what types of work they used to publish," Huchler said.

Though different stylistically, "Iris" is committed to the same mission as past magazines. According to its website, "We publish creative pieces including fiction, nonfiction, poems, and visual arts, such as paintings, drawings, mixed media, and photography."

Cavanagh, a writer and editor of former JMU publications, emphasized the archival importance of literary magazines. She said permanence is one of the reasons for reviving "Temper."

"It's a tangible thing that they can look at and be like, 'Here, I have this thing that I contributed to,'" Cavanagh said. "It's not just something that's lost."

Cavanagh's able to trace former co-writers who have proceeded to successful careers in the literary field. The authors themselves "could also inspire the current burgeoning writers who are here," Cavanagh said.

As with connections made in former publications, community-building for like-minded artists was emphasized with the revival of the magazine. Cavanagh said this outlet can cultivate an unparalleled creative environment.

"Having work showcased in one place can't help but create community between people," Cavanagh said. "When you look at the literary magazine ... you look at the names of people and say, 'Oh, that person was in my class,' or 'Oh, I maybe would like to work on this magazine.'"

Keeler agreed.

"I want people — like all kinds of people and all kinds of work — to be showcased and to be available to the community of JMU," she said.

Thursday, January 19, 2023



"Iris" features student submissions of literary and visual work, including poetry, photography and narrative pieces. Photo illustration by Emma Connelly / *The Breeze*

The ultimate showcase of "Iris" community-building was its pre-publication reading at the Student Success Center on Dec. 6, 2022. The event featured the magazine's staff as well as writers and visual artists who contributed to the first issue.

Throughout the event, authors presented their poetry and other literary works. Keeler said adding voices to submissions brought the issue's written pieces to life.

"We actually had 11 of our people who were open to reading their work," Keeler said. "[When] you get to hear the person who wrote it say it out loud ... it was really powerful."

Liz Shanks, a junior English major, shared her piece, "Sonderlust," a poem about deconstructing music. Shanks said this was her first experience sharing poetry outside the classroom.

"I was really proud of myself, especially in that moment," Shanks said. "Like, 'I did it, I'm here, and I am literally reading it out loud to a room.'"

Cavanagh said by presenting their work outside of the classroom, students are able to "risk their voices and their creativity more by exposing it to a larger audience."

Keeler emphasized the importance of spreading literary and visual art beyond the classroom.

"It's important that we showcase all different types of literature and art that people at JMU have to offer," Keeler said. "There's so much that I think people wouldn't get to see if we didn't have 'Iris.'"

For most literary and visual arts students, "Iris" is their first opportunity to publish their work through a respectable outlet with the chance of further exposure, Huchler said.

This was the case for Shanks, who further described the feeling of herself and her friend being published in the magazine as "euphoric."

"We were like, 'Oh my gosh, this is real. We're actually getting published, the thing that we've always dreamed of,'" Shanks said.

Huchler commented that, for the first issue, pieces were chosen specifically for their resonance with JMU students. Alongside written works, art pieces are chosen to reflect the prose.

"There was this one piece of creative nonfiction someone wrote about their childhood home and then we got these really cool film photos, one of which was

like this old kitchen, like a window behind a refrigerator," Huchler said. "We thought that it was really cool how those pieces could be in conversation with each other."

Moving forward, Keeler said they may reach out to studio art and design majors to collect visual artwork submissions for the spring issue.

"One of the best things about a literary magazine is to see poems paired with different art pieces and to let it tell a story," Keeler said.

The "Iris" editorial team is also hoping for more recognition for the spring issue. Huchler said the more notoriety, the more students will "come seek us out as a place to share their work."

For Cavanagh, continuation of providing a creative outlet is of the utmost importance, she said, especially because of inconsistencies with past publications.

"There's enough, sort of, isolation in the world that whatever I can do to break up that potential isolation, give people a platform, again, to be heard [and] to exercise their voice," Cavanagh said, "that's what I'm going to do."

Cavanagh further described the importance of having a publication that "serves" students equipped with dreams of getting their ideas into the world.

"There are other students who want the extra push to see, 'What happens if other people beyond my classroom actually read my words?'" Cavanagh said. "They want that engagement with the audience."

Submissions for literary and visual work open this month for the spring 2023 edition. For Huchler and Keeler, they said, continuous submissions, editorial team growth and involvement from JMU creatives is the key to securing the magazine's future.

"If anyone has even a fleeting [interest] in helping us create the magazine or something that they want to submit to the magazine, please, please go for it," Keeler said. "We love reading work, and we love adding to our team."

Avery Goodstine contributed to this report.

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"Iris" is on stands throughout campus in Wilson, Harrison, Keezell and Miller halls. Emma Connelly / *The Breeze*



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'Always something good'

Peyton McDaniel played in her first game since the 2020-21 season during JMU's loss to Maine on Nov. 7. Kailey Garner / The Breeze

Peyton McDaniel's return gives extra layer to Dukes' success after lengthy rehab

from **BACK IN THE GAME**, page 1

"It's Peyton. I mean, freshman year, she had 30 [points]," Jefferson said. "You never know with her, but it's always gonna be something good."

McDaniel said she spent nearly every day of her recovery anxiously waiting for her chance to get back on the court. She went to O'Regan's office to talk with him regularly, whether it was about her injury or not, and they both wanted her back as soon as possible. It just wasn't possible last season.

O'Regan and McDaniel described it as her first "major injury." McDaniel underwent an extensive recovery process to get back into shape. It forced the junior to reset and find a way to enjoy things outside of basketball.

"We had to work on other things ... and that's OK," O'Regan said. "But I'm glad to see her progress. I'm glad to see her smile a little bit more than last year."

McDaniel tried to keep herself occupied outside of classes, rehab and practices by finding new TV shows on Netflix, and O'Regan gave her a must-watch list of what he called "classic" movies.

O'Regan rattled off "Good Will Hunting," "Remember the Titans" and "Six Underground," McDaniel said. She kept the list on her phone along with other shows and movies to watch.

McDaniel said she isn't much of a movie-watcher, nor did she watch many of those movies or TV shows with her teammates because they aren't big movie-watchers, either. But she did watch a lot of game film.

As she slowly returned to the court, McDaniel and O'Regan were presented with a new challenge, one she says she's still working through today: the long-term process of understanding her body.

O'Regan said it was more than just simply

strengthening her knee and getting back into shape — McDaniel had to relearn her limits. She had to relearn that it's OK to not always be 100%, and in some cases, O'Regan said, she had to learn how to take a break if she needed it.

"It's really, like, day-to-day, just being able to kind of adjust as needed," McDaniel said. "If there's a day like that, it doesn't feel great, the coaches are like, you know, 'Learn from the side. Not get every single rep.'"

It hasn't stopped McDaniel from getting creative with her rehab treatments. Similar to finding TV shows and movies, McDaniel has found a plethora of options to continue strengthening her knee.

"It's an ongoing process of what works better," O'Regan said. "She was swimming before practices last week, and it felt really good. I've never heard of that, so we're trying something because she's invested."

McDaniel returned to game action in the Dukes' season-opening 60-58 loss to Maine on Nov. 7, playing a mere eight minutes and finishing with three points. O'Regan made

it clear following the loss that it was too early in the season to determine how often McDaniel would play, especially while he was still figuring out what kind of team he had this year. He said then that she might get fewer "reps" to start the year.

So, McDaniel played an average of 12 minutes in JMU's first three games. From there, she hasn't dipped below 16 minutes in any game. And while she hasn't hit her freshman-year 30-point game feat yet this season, she's become one of the top 3-point shooters for the Dukes since her return.

O'Regan said McDaniel is a similar player to now-assistant coach Lexie Barrier, who graduated just a year before McDaniel's freshman year. Barrier also went through an injury, played through a foot injury her final season in 2019-20.

"I actually, as Peyton started to come back, I didn't push her workouts to Lexie, but I did," O'Regan said. "Because it was more like, they needed to build something. But like, she's got to have somebody that's been through this. And I think that can

really help her."

As JMU continues its 13-game winning streak and 6-0 Sun Belt Conference record, McDaniel hasn't been a consistent starter. But that hasn't been an issue for the guard or O'Regan because of the Dukes' depth. O'Regan said he's liked having McDaniel come off the bench during games, given the pieces he has to work with this season.

But more importantly, McDaniel said, she's just happy to be back on the court. She hasn't looked back on her journey too much, but from where she was last season to today has been a lot for her to process.

"I mean, I feel like sometimes you can reflect on life, but it's like, we're in the middle of it," McDaniel said. "I'm back and ready to play, and I'm excited."

McDaniel wasn't on the court during the Dukes' first two games of their four-game homestand, which wraps up this weekend against Georgia Southern and Troy, respectively. However, O'Regan said Tuesday he's expecting to put McDaniel in again.

McDaniel's brought back some much-needed 3-point shooting for JMU this season. She said she's learning more about enjoying basketball — not just games, but down to each quarter. She also said she wants to become a better leader.

"She has been a wonderful boost for us," O'Regan said. "And I don't know where we're at right now. So I'm just so pumped that she's out here working through the good days and bad days to get out there and play, which is just what she wants to do."

"I feel like sometimes you can reflect on life ... but we're in the middle of it. I'm back and I'm ready to play, and I'm excited"

Peyton McDaniel

JMU women's basketball junior guard

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Junior guard Claire Neff celebrates a point against Queens on Nov. 13. Savannah Reger / The Breeze

By ZACH MENDENHALL
The Breeze

After beginning its season with a 3-2 record, JMU women's basketball is in the midst of a 13-game win streak and have yet to lose on the road. The Dukes moved to 8-0 on the road Jan. 7 after defeating Southern Miss, 63-54.

With 12 games remaining in the season, seven of which are away, the Dukes already have more away victories than each of their past two seasons and are one behind the 2015-16 streak of eight-straight away victories for longest win streak on the road in program history. Throughout their run, the Dukes have won by as many as 51 points at Millersville on Nov. 9 and by as little as two points at VCU on Dec. 1, but they've gotten the job done regardless.

JMU hasn't had a higher away record than home record since 1994 but is on pace to do so this year. And it could set the Dukes up for a chance at the conference title. Here's what's making the difference for this team away from home.

It's not statistical

Although JMU has a perfect away record, its home statistics are about the same in nearly every category. JMU barely produces more points and assists at home, averaging 0.125 more points per game at home, and 0.75 more assists at home. The Dukes also average 1.25 less turnovers at home. They've committed one more foul at home than away, with 146 road fouls and 147 at home, and have made two more free throws away — 161 on the road and 159 at home. The biggest statistical difference is just below 3%, with JMU shooting 44.1% on the road, while shooting 41.7% at home.

Part of the difference in shooting has come from the team's depth, particularly from JMU's juniors. Junior guards Jamia Hazell and Peyton McDaniel and forward Kseniia Kozlova have all become consistent shooters for the Dukes, with Kozlova having a seven-game point streak of 10-plus points.

Riding the wave

In their 2015-16 season, the last time the Dukes had a home or away streak as long, they finished with a home record

Road warriors

Analysis | How JMU women's basketball maintains its perfect record away from home

of 14-0. That same season, the team ended with a 20-game win streak after starting 7-6. The Dukes also won their final 13 games of the 2018-19 season and completed a 12-game win streak the year prior. As the Dukes started the season 3-2 and haven't lost since, the team is on track for the longest win streak in team history.

Head coach Sean O'Regan instilled a motto of "1% better everyday," which the Dukes have used throughout the season. McDaniel said the motto helps remind the team that the only way to get better and continue their streak is by remembering there's more work to be done after every game, regardless of the outcome.

Beginner's luck

In its first season in the Sun Belt Conference, JMU sits first place in its division and overall in its conference and is the only team remaining without a conference loss. The Dukes are currently a first-place team and were predicted to finish sixth in the 2022-23 Sun Belt preseason coaches poll. The team's performance equals efforts of other JMU teams such as football and women's soccer in finding above-average success in its first year in the Sun Belt. JMU women's basketball only need one more win to solidify themselves as the fifth JMU team in the 2022-23 athletics year to earn an overall winning record in its first season in the Sun Belt.

O'Regan added two Sun Belt coaches to his staff over the summer — Neil Harrow and Lexie Barrier. He said he's relied on them both through the entire season, not just Sun Belt play, to understand what the new conference looks like. O'Regan also said both assistant coaches' knowledge of the Sun Belt scouting report has made it easier to set up drills and analyze film before games, but he can rely on the two to take over and guide the Dukes.

Second-half drama

The biggest situation for the Dukes that could harm their road win streak is the third and fourth quarters. Most of JMU's opponents go into comeback-mode, and it's caused some games to go

from a 20-point lead, to a one-point or even a back-and-forth affair. However, where the Dukes have found a way to prevail consistently is their poise — particularly at the free throws line.

JMU has depth on its bench to help keep its starting five rested and able to play, including junior guards Claire Neff and Steph Ouder Kirk. And while the two occasionally crack the starting lineup, particularly Ouder Kirk, they often give JMU a chance to catch its breath before having to face the free throw line late in the game. Jefferson, for one, is who O'Regan regards as the Dukes' most consistent free-throw shooter and is often sent to the line multiple times in the second half, including going 8-for-9 against Southern Miss on Jan. 7. Having Jefferson on the line is an asset for JMU in those final minutes of the game and has become part of creating the game-winning moments that bode well for the Dukes on the road.

Who remains?

Of the team's seven remaining road games, all of its opponents are in the Sun Belt. Three of its future road opponents hold winning or .500 records in Georgia Southern (11-2, 3-1 Sun Belt), Texas State (11-5, 3-2 Sun Belt) and Old Dominion (10-7, 2-2 Sun Belt). Meanwhile, the other four have losing records: Coastal Carolina (6-9, 1-3 Sun Belt), Georgia State (8-10, 2-3 Sun Belt), South Alabama (4-11, 0-4 Sun Belt) and App State (6-10, 2-3 Sun Belt). The Dukes have only played two of their future road opponents this season, Coastal Carolina and Old Dominion; both matchups resulted in home victories.

The Dukes continue to hold first place in the Sun Belt and have the longest away streak in all of women's college basketball this season. The record will be intact for a while, as the team doesn't play another away game for two weeks, but it'll be on the line to defend again before the team knows it.

Madison Hricik contributed to this report.

CONTACT Zach Mendenhall at mendenz1@dukes.jmu.edu. For more women's basketball coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.



Women's soccer hires assistant coach

JMU finished the 2022 season 12-4-5 and lost in the Sun Belt tournament finals.
Ryan Sauer / The Breeze

By **SPORTS DESK**
The Breeze

JMU women's soccer hired Parker Aaron to be a volunteer assistant coach, the program announced Wednesday.

Aaron comes to JMU after completing internships with the Liberty and JMU women's soccer programs, respectively. Aaron shadowed the JMU coaching staff during the summer and this past preseason to see how a college program worked, a JMU Athletics spokesman said in a text to The Breeze.

JMU head coach Joshua Walters told JMU Athletics that Aaron did a "phenomenal job" during his internship.

"He is eager, selfless and knowledgeable which are fantastic qualities in this role," Walters said of Aaron to JMU Athletics.

Aaron also has experience coaching youth and high school teams, both as an assistant and head coach. He was the head coach of Central Virginia United U13 from January to August 2022 and was an assistant coach for the EC Glass High School's women's soccer team in Lynchburg, among other gigs.

Aaron played soccer at Randolph College from 2019-22 and notched two goals and four assists in his career. He graduated from Randolph in December.

Starting July 1, 2023, all NCAA volunteer coaching positions will become paid, full-time coaches without recruiting constraints.

CONTACT the sports desk at breezesports@gmail.com. For more women's soccer coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.

Sun Belt adds beach volleyball

JMU not currently member of league

By **SPORTS DESK**
The Breeze

The Sun Belt Conference announced Wednesday that it'll sponsor women's beach volleyball beginning in the 2023-24 athletic season as a spring sport. This will be the conference's 19th championship sport.

"As the fastest growing collegiate sport, particularly within the footprint of the Sun Belt, it is a perfect fit for our conference," Sun Belt Commissioner Keith Gill said in a statement. We're looking forward to providing an elite competitive and championship environment for the student-athletes, coaches and fans of Sun Belt Beach Volleyball."

Coastal Carolina, ULM, Southern Miss and Georgia State are the four Sun Belt programs in



Courtesy of the Sun Belt Conference

the league. Mercer, Stephen F. Austin, UNC Wilmington and College of Charleston will join as affiliate members to make up the eight-team league. JMU doesn't currently sponsor women's beach volleyball.

Beach volleyball is one of two programs the Sun Belt plans to announce sponsorship for by the start of the 2023-24 season, along with women's swim and dive.

The original announcement that the Sun Belt planned to add beach volleyball and swim and dive came in June 2022 during the annual presidents' and chancellors' spring meeting. An announcement about swim and dive hasn't been revealed at this time.

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

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JMU redshirt junior guard Noah Freidel went 6-for-8 from 3-point range Jan. 14. Savannah Reger / The Breeze

BACK ON TRACK

Morse, Freidel hit their stride after private shootaround

By WILL MORAN
The Breeze

For three straight games in the thick of Sun Belt Conference play, JMU's leading 3-point shooters, redshirt senior guard Vado Morse and redshirt junior guard Noah Freidel, struggled mightily to shoot the basketball.

In these games — in which the Dukes went 0-3 — the two shot a combined 5-for-34 from the field and 4-for-28 from 3-point range. Morse is a career 34.8% 3-point shooter and is averaging nearly 40% from 3-point range this season, the best of his career. Freidel's 3-point percentage has dipped to 31.9% thus far in 2022-23, but he averages 37.5% from 3-point land.

But the day before JMU's matchup with Georgia Southern on Jan. 14 — which was then tied atop the Sun Belt at 4-1 — JMU head coach Mark Byington asked Morse and Freidel to come one hour early to practice.

Byington said the three sat and talked for 10-15 minutes, then “got on the court and sweated hard” for 30-40 minutes. Byington said there wasn't anything out of the ordinary about the shootaround, just a matter of Morse and Freidel believing in themselves and getting back to what he knows they're capable of.

“I wanted to do what I could to try to help those guys get out of it — everything I could — but more importantly, I want them to know they're the biggest reason they're going to get out of it,” Byington said. “It's gotta be in their mind and their actions and what they're gonna do, and they're gonna control it more than anyone else.”

The shootaround, or Byington's message, or both, seemed to work. Against Georgia Southern, Morse scored a season-high 25 points and shot 4-for-8 from 3. Freidel contributed 20 points and shot 6-for-8 from three, the first time he's made six 3s in a game since Jan. 22, 2021, when he played for South Dakota State. The two spearheaded the Dukes' 83-71 victory to improve to 12-7 (3-3 Sun Belt).

“Every player that has played basketball goes through missed shots or goes through

a slump,” Byington said. “The good ones get themselves out of it.”

After the Georgia Southern game, Morse and Freidel said they felt they got back to themselves. Morse missed multiple games at the beginning of Sun Belt play with an illness, and Freidel, while healthy, simply struggled to find the bottom of the net for the three-game stretch before Jan. 14.

“That's one of the reasons I came to this school, is Coach B brought us in and he just told us, like, ‘If I tell you to stop shooting, that's when I lose confidence in you,’” Freidel said. “He said he's pissed off that he has more confidence in us than ourselves.”

The Morse-Freidel duo has also been integral to the Dukes' success through the season's 18 games before Jan. 14. In JMU's 12 wins, the two have combined for 27.1 points per game and 45.2% shooting from the field. But in seven losses, they've averaged just 11.2 combined points on 19.8% shooting.

The duo will need to stay hot when the Dukes head to Troy and Southern Mississippi this week, both of which are at the top of the Sun Belt and have had exceptional wins at home to start the season — a combined 14-1 record.

In JMU's 63-62 loss against South Alabama two days before the Georgia Southern matchup, Byington said he graded just 1 1/2 shots out of Freidel and Morse's 17 as “bad shots.” Now, after trusting his process against Georgia Southern, Morse said he's primed to capitalize off his 25-point night in the Atlantic Union Bank Center.

“It's good that we're kind of back to ourselves,” Morse said. “It grows confidence in us: We hit shots like that, and it helps the team out. So it feels good for sure.”

Grant Johnson contributed to this report.

CONTACT Will Moran at moranwp@dukes.jmu.edu. For more men's basketball coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.



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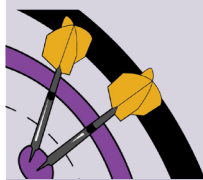








Thursday, January 19, 2023



**DARTS
& PATS**

Want to praise someone or get something off your chest? Darts & Pats is the place to do it. Submit your own at breezejmu.org.

An **"aren't-you-a-doctor?"** dart to my orthodontist for forgetting my lower retainers.

From someone who had to leave their house in single-digit weather.

A **"no-rush"** pat to my professors who don't begin covering content in the first week of school.

From someone who likes to ease into things.

A **"finally"** pat to JMU Parking Services for making an additional floor of commuter parking in Warsaw.

From someone who can park closer to campus.

A **"where-are-you?"** dart to the professors who don't open their Canvas pages until the day of class.

From someone who actually reads the syllabus.

Campus communication

Exchange of information regarding safety risks on campus between students and police needs improvement



ORIANA LUKAS | opinions with oriana

Imagine being a parent and receiving a gut-wrenching phone call that your child has been put in harm's way.

Sadly, the tragic scenario of this phone call has become reality for many students' parents. With college town violence increasing, demonstrated by the recent shooting at UVa. and the brutal murders in Idaho, it's crucial for police officials in college towns to devise plans to ensure students' safety.

Harrisonburg has a crime index of 23, indicating that it's safer than only 23% of other U.S. cities. While it was demonstrated by a study done by the U.S. Department of Justice that college campuses typically have a lower crime rate than the surrounding cities, it's crucial that the city officials clarify safety tactics and resolutions. With Harrisonburg having a higher crime rate, proper communication with the student body should be required.

College towns are easy targets due to the typically larger young adult population. These concentrated areas give criminals a vast opportunity and better chances of remaining uncaught according to an article by Edward Glaeser in the "Journal of Political Economy."

Along with the larger populations, this generation of college students is very active on social media. According to the Pew Research

Center, 71% of the population from ages 18-29 use picture sharing platforms such as Instagram and Facebook. While these platforms are great for genuine communication and connections, stalkers take advantage of them to gain access to new targets as it allows an exceptional amount of personal information to be navigated.

Since JMU was first established, it's grown extensively in size, with 20,346 undergraduate students enrolled as of the fall 2022 semester. With this high-density population, it's inevitable for crime to occur. The issue comes when the crime occurs and there's a lack of communication from police officials to the student body.

Back in September, rumors about suspicious activity on and around JMU's campus circulated on social media platforms. Some of this was misinformation, according to a Sept. 21 email from JMU's Police Department (JMU PD) to the student body, and some of these concerns were heightened due to social media.

"Please be cautious of the source of information concerning the JMU community," the email stated "If the news did not come from a valid news source, avoid reposting on social media sites."

Even so, it's easy to get scared, and the email from JMU PD felt more blameful of the students spreading rumors on social media than it was explaining the situation and strategies to make sure every student understood the circumstance

and felt safe.

Communication is key in these situations. JMU senior Hannah Trebour shared a positive experience — after experiencing a startling stalking incident, she felt comforted as Harrisonburg Police Department (HPD) officers kept them notified of the updates.

"We had spotted an individual looking into our neighbor's window with a flashlight," Trebour said. "We called the police, as he came back two nights later, and he was arrested and given a warning to not come back. The officer in charge was very nice and considerate of us, asking several questions which led to him identifying his car."

This sort of directive is what every officer needs. It's easy to become paranoid, especially as recent shootings and other crimes circulate through the news. Whether there are threats on campus or there's just a scare, both JMU PD and HPD should to improve their communication with for young adults around the city.

"I think it's important the police forces are open with the student body," Trebour said. "Especially since we are such a large part of the community."

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



JMU PD uses an email notification system to alert students of safety risks on and around campus. Alex Clarke / The Breeze

NO NALOXONE

JMU dorms should be equipped with emergency opioid overdose medication



ETHAN JARDINES | thorough theses

Opioid abuse in the U.S. has reached astounding heights — it's been classified as a national crisis by the Department of Health and Human Services. For years, the epidemic has wreaked havoc on our nation, and Harrisonburg is no exception.

Most notably, a man from Leesburg, Virginia, was charged with second-degree murder in connection with the overdose of a JMU student back in 2017, as reported by Loudoun Now.

More recently, some may remember a scenario regarding opioid overdose and the use of naloxone, a drug used to treat opioid overdose, during the 8 Key Questions in Ethical Reasoning portion of fall semester 2022 new student orientation. The scenario sets up a debate as to whether naloxone, also known as its brand name, Narcan, should be readily available for administration. It would be in students' best interest if residence halls were equipped with naloxone.

Back in November, the University Health Center (UHC) held a free training on the use of Narcan and even gave out a free nasal dose of the drug for those who completed the course. Other training opportunities have been presented by JMU over the past few years, including a conference held by the Physician Assistant Program on fighting the opioid crisis back in 2019, as reported by WHSV.

Narcan is available as a nasal spray, meaning next to no medical training would be needed to administer the drug to someone in a suspected opioid overdose. Additionally, since there are minimal side effects, naloxone can be administered with almost no risk of making a medical emergency worse. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the only serious side effect of naloxone is theoretically an allergic reaction, but this has never been documented.

While first responders in Harrisonburg are equipped with naloxone, it still takes time to respond to an emergency — time that could be

crucial for making a full recovery from an opioid overdose because the medication restores normal breathing.

The argument against the distribution of Narcan stems from what's known as a moral hazard, which is when a situation increases risky behavior due to a lack of consequences. In the case of naloxone, the argument is having the drug readily available will increase opioid use because people would know it's available if they do overdose. This is supported by a study published by the Social Science Research Network, which found more access to naloxone led to more opioid-related hospital visits but no reduction in opioid-related mortality. However, the same argument could be made for the prohibition of carrying epinephrine — like EpiPens — because having a drug to minimize the effects of anaphylaxis would make those most at risk take fewer precautions.

Beyond the moral hazard argument, there's no reason the university can't equip residence halls with Narcan. Cost is also not a problem, as a 2018 study published by the National Center for Biotechnology Information found the average out-of-pocket expense for Narcan to be just \$31.01. If one dose of Narcan is put in each lobby of JMU's 25 residence halls, the total cost would come out to \$775.25. Naloxone can be stored at room temperature but would need protection from light.

With the FDA poised to make the drug an over-the-counter medication, residence halls at JMU should be equipped with Narcan — there are almost no downsides to such an endeavor. Even if it's unlikely the drug will ever need to be administered by students or faculty, it's better to have it and not need it, than to need it and not have it.

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



Ben Moulse / The Breeze



The University Health Center at JMU hosted a training on the use of Narcan in November. Evan Holden / The Breeze

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FOR RELEASE JANUARY 9, 2023

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Rainbow flag letters
 - 5 Too sure of oneself
 - 9 "The Vampire Diaries" actress Dobrev
 - 13 Vicinity
 - 14 Play button's alternate function, often
 - 15 More than one
 - 16 Open-air alehouse
 - 18 ___ of approval
 - 19 Cul-de-___
 - 20 Goddess who wears a headdress with cow horns
 - 21 Underdog victories
 - 23 Waters down
 - 25 Like fast-spreading TikTok videos
 - 26 Kathleen Turner comedy featuring super intelligent infants
 - 31 Fruit-flavored drink brand
 - 34 Hollered
 - 35 CPR pro
 - 36 Largest Greek island
 - 38 "Hold on a ___!"
 - 39 Nemesis
 - 41 Untouched serve
 - 42 Eritrea's capital
 - 45 Black gemstone
 - 46 Eggplant appetizer
 - 49 Actress Barkin
 - 50 Attempts
 - 53 Shrub with colorful flowers
 - 55 Slugger Juan who won the 2022 Home Run Derby
 - 57 "When will u b here?"
 - 59 Snoozefest
 - 60 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame trio, and an apt name for a trio of answers in this puzzle
 - 63 ___ 500
 - 64 Surround
 - 65 Ginger cookie
 - 66 Model Holliday
 - 67 Sign above a door
 - 68 Questions

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59					60	61				62	
63					64					65	
66					67					68	

By Lynn K. Watson & Will Nediger

1/9/23

- DOWN**
- 1 Science workshops
 - 2 Australia's ___ Barrier Reef
 - 3 Tree with smooth gray bark
 - 4 Roofing material
 - 5 South Asian wraparound dress
 - 6 Some spa applications
 - 7 "___ only as directed"
 - 8 Bona fide
 - 9 Largest city in the Bahamas
 - 10 "You really understand me"
 - 11 Well-organized
 - 12 Hole-making tools
 - 14 Elapse, as time
 - 17 Actress Lollobrigida
 - 22 Start of a title by 44-Down
 - 24 "As if!"
 - 25 Shoelaces alternative
 - 27 Guy who always agrees with the boss
 - 28 Gather a bit at a time
 - 29 Award for TV excellence

B

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ANSWERS/

- 30 Mythical river of the underworld
- 31 Wound covering
- 32 Black-and-white sea creature
- 33 Buzzing facial adornments
- 37 Sharp-eyed bird
- 40 L.A. arts district
- 43 Put away, as a sword
- 44 "Emma" novelist Jane
- 47 Places for bowling
- 48 Espadrille, e.g.
- 51 Frigid temps
- 52 T-bone, for one
- 53 "This won't hurt ___!"
- 54 Tune (out)
- 55 Big rig
- 56 Solemn bio
- 58 Egyptian serpents
- 61 Magic spell
- 62 Fed. property agency

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