

The Breeze

JMU'S AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER SINCE 1922

FEBRUARY 23, 2023 VOL. 101 NO.20 BREEZEJMU.ORG



To satisfy Title IX requirements in 2007, JMU cut 10 sports teams from varsity status. Ben Moulse / The Breeze

2007 athletics cuts leave lasting impact

By MADISON HRICK & SAVANNAH REGER
The Breeze

Brian Freitag took a midday nap, woke up, and his life changed. It felt that fast.

The JMU men's swimmer (2004-08) liked taking naps in between classes and practices, but after waking up, he joined other student-athletes in the Convocation Center. There, he'd be given the news he never thought he'd hear.

JMU Athletics eliminated multiple sports to stay in compliance with Title IX requirements. The announcement came Sep. 29, 2006, and the decision went into effect July 1, 2007.

"As we walked out, it was on the news that JMU was doing this," Freitag said. "So it was really kind of strange how that day went: You wake up from a nap, and all of a sudden, you find out that, in some ways, your life is changing for good."

Sixteen years later, JMU still looks back on the decision with a mournful disposition. Director of Athletics Jeff Bourne said it was one of the hardest decisions he's

ever made. Freitag hasn't returned to JMU since he graduated. The decision sparked conversations across the country and made its way to the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Forever part of JMU Athletics' history, the complex, controversial decision influenced how the program has developed into what it is today.

Title IX, and the decision to cut

"The fact is, we had to comply with the law."

Those were the words former JMU president Linwood Rose (1998-2012) said during the 2006 press conference that changed the lives of 155 people and the face of JMU Athletics to satisfy a complex policy.

Title IX is an education amendment that "prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs receiving Federal financial assistance," according to the U.S. Department of Education. Title IX created opportunities for equal play in men's and women's sports, but it was a balancing act.

see **TITLE IX**, page 14

ODS opens new testing center

By ABBY CHAMOT
The Breeze

JMU's Office of Disability Services (ODS) expanded to a second testing location this month to accommodate the growing population of students registering with disabilities at JMU.

The new testing location is located on the fifth floor of Warren Hall in room 502 across from the Warren Ballroom. Both ODS testing center locations are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

In the fall, there were 3,000 exam bookings for the original ODS testing center in the Student Success Center, an increase from 2,600 in the prior spring semester, according to ODS exam assistant Kristina Bright. With the new location, ODS can double its daily test booking accommodations from 40 to 80. After tracking data and reviewing the influx of students, Bright said, JMU and ODS decided the expansion was necessary to fulfill the needs of all students, since the first location was too small and overcrowded. She said ODS strives to "cater to an ever-growing student population."

see **ODS**, page 4

Students say the Quad helps them relax, destress

By ABI MIDDLETON
The Breeze

Birds chirping. Dogs barking. Students laughing.

As the weather warms up, JMU's Quad is once again becoming a popular spot for students to rest and relax. The Breeze spoke to nine students there, all of them saying being on the Quad helps them in different ways.

National research also suggests spending time outside may contribute to overall improved mental health of students.

According to a 2020 article from the American Psychological Association, spending time in nature has numerous cognitive benefits, such as improved memory, better attentional functioning

and cognitive flexibility. Alongside that, a 2019 article from Science Advances reported there's a strong correlation between nature experience and happiness, as well as reductions in stress.

In a 2020 research examination led by an interdisciplinary team at Cornell University, researchers found that as little as 10 minutes a day — and ideally, 10-50 minutes — in a natural setting helps increase happiness and reduce the effects of stress in college-age individuals. Gen Meredith, the lead author, said in the Cornell article that it "doesn't take much time for the positive benefits to kick in," and that students should be getting time in nature every day, or at least a few times a week.



Several JMU students said they often finish schoolwork on the Quad. Abi Middleton / The Breeze

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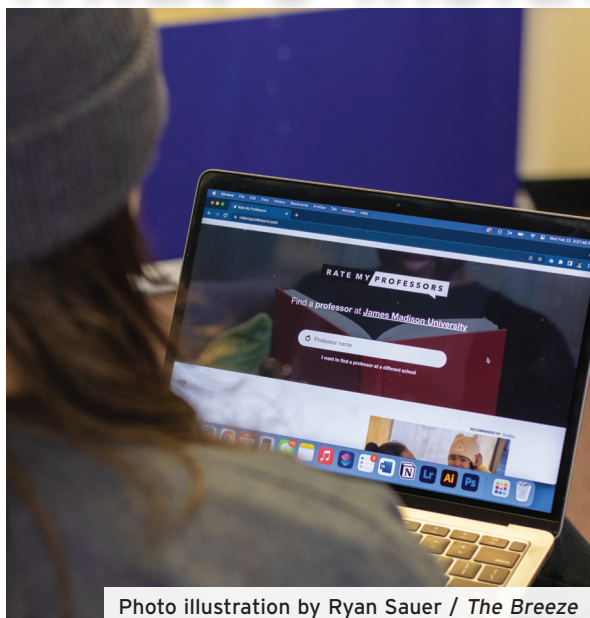
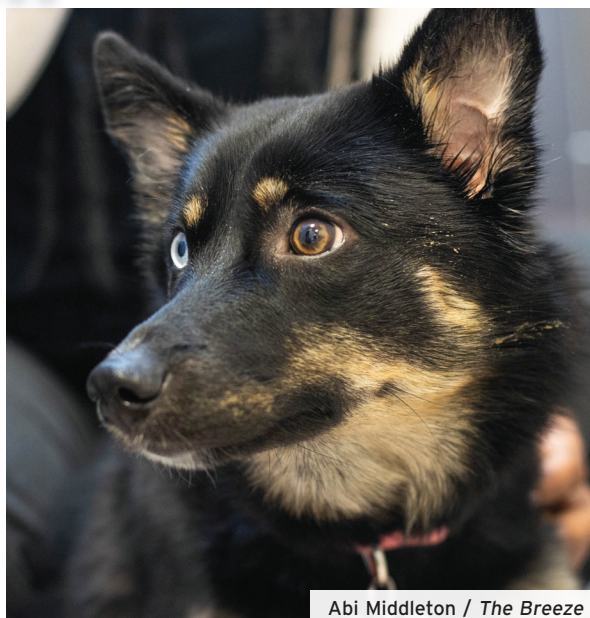


Photo illustration by Ryan Sauer / The Breeze



Abi Middleton / The Breeze



Peyton King / The Breeze

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CORRECTION: A news article about Early Action at JMU ("Class of 2027 Early Action applications reach record high," Feb. 16) misspelled Madison Fraysier's name. The online version has been updated. A culture article about racist content in old yearbooks ("JMU staff uses yearbooks, scrapbooks to uncover dark parts of school history," Feb. 16) incorrectly named JMU Special Collections. The online version has been updated.

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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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DID YOU KNOW?

Branch Manager Bill Welch is a JMU Alum and member of the JMU Alumni Pep Band.

Check out Bill and the JMU Alumni Pep Band at the Men's Basketball Game on Saturday, February 18, and follow us on Facebook and Instagram @jmucommonwealthone for other fun facts about Bill and a chance to win \$100!



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The Breeze v02.16.23

Thursday, February 23, 2023

Ratings & approvals

Students make sacrifices to get “good” professors

By **BRIANNA THWEATT**
The Breeze

Class registration occurs just a few months before the semester begins, and for some students like sophomore Maddie Tardif, this proves to be stressful. During this time, students are often racing against one another to get classes, but what really makes this time so hectic is the battle over “good professors,” several students told *The Breeze*.

A good professor can mean a plethora of things, but according to these students, the general definition has come from the popular website Rate My Professors, which allows students from institutions in the U.S., Canada and the U.K. to internationally evaluate their professors and give them ratings based on categories such as requiring a textbook, class difficulty, grades and attendance. Besides professors, the site also allows students to rate universities as a whole.

“I used it to ensure that I was going to have a professor who best fits my educational needs and that didn’t have a bad rating,” Tardif said.

Tardif isn’t alone when it comes to wanting a “good professor” for the semester. Rate My Professors allows JMU students specifically to define who they think is and isn’t a good professor at JMU.

Whether students feel there are “bad professors” or not, many said they make sacrifices in order to take professors with high-rating classes, including willingly waking up earlier or staying out later.

In JMU freshman Treya Gunn’s case, she said she’d be willing to take an early morning class to get the professor that she wants. If the professor is “great,” she said, it makes the early-morning factor “not too bad and ultimately balances it out.”

JMU junior Tyree Waller recalled a time in which he purposefully

“messed up a schedule” just to fit in one good professor. Similarly, Tardif said she’ll wait to take a class until she’s able to select a professor with high ratings to avoid bringing “unnecessary stress” upon herself because she views herself as a “hands-on learner” and needs that engagement within the classroom to succeed.

Gunn compared choosing classes taught by good professors to going to a restaurant.

“I believe that students want the best review for what they spend their time and money on, just as we look at the reviews for a restaurant before we go to sit down,” Gunn said.

Waller described a good professor as someone who’s “cooperative, properly teaches the class and essentially makes the class interesting.” In alignment with Waller’s description, this would correspond to roughly a 5-point rating — out of 5 — on Rate My Professors and the site would label that professor as “awesome” or “great,” meaning the “good professor” would be in high demand among students, making not only the professor popular but the classes they teach, too, he said.

“[Good professors] tend to have full classes or close to full by the time of the enrollment date,” Waller said.

Students are also able to make comments on the professor beyond just rating them on a scale. Tardif said she pays close attention to the additional reviews. These comments often provide class-specific details made by students who’ve previously taken the class, including remarks about communication between themselves and the professor, workload and grading.

While Tardif said she does read the comments, she also takes note that people’s experience with a professor may differ and that comments both positive or negative are just “one’s own experience with that professor.”

Several students told *The Breeze* that poor reviews and low ratings can dissuade them from taking classes with certain professors.

“I would define a bad professor as neglectful, short-tempered and harsh,” Gunn said. “If a student feels scared to speak to their professor because of their behavior, I believe that is all that is needed to brand them as a bad professor.”

Waller defined having a “bad professor” in the same terms as a professor having a rating below 3 on the Rate My Professors scale or “someone who doesn’t work well with students.”

“If they are rated poorly, they were rated that for a reason,” Waller said. “If their rating is low and a reason is provided, I wouldn’t take it unless I had no other option.”

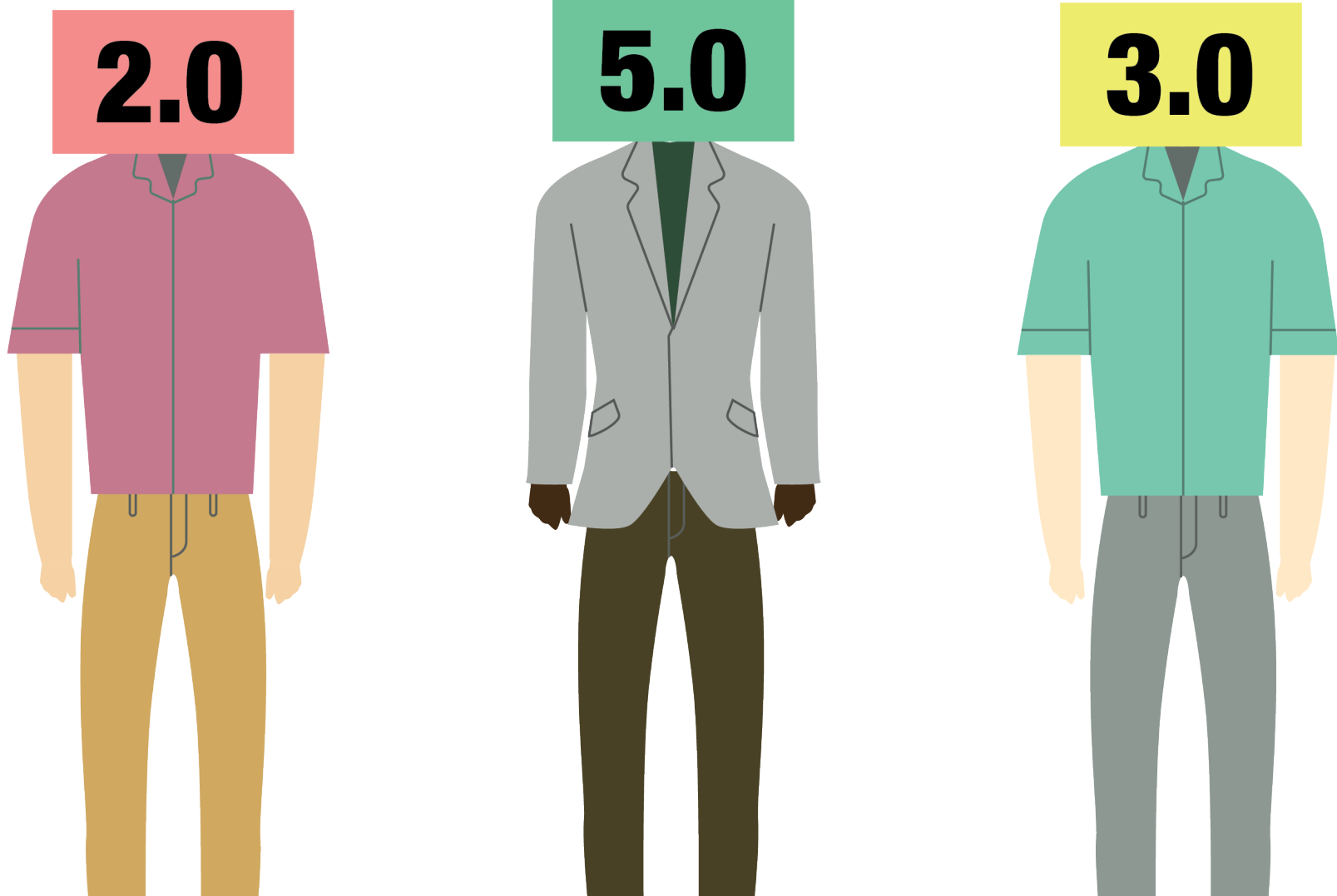
Students, however, aren’t the only ones on campus who feel the repercussions of Rate My Professors. Elisabeth Kvernén, a media arts and design (SMAD) professor, expressed her thoughts about the platform.

“Professors have a lot of power in the classroom space,” Kvernén said, “and it’s a positive thing for students to have to share these things.”

Since Rate My Professors allows students to make comments, Kvernén said she’s able to critique her courses where she sees fit.

“Every once in a while, students will come through with specific complaints or concerns,” Kvernén said. “I try to understand what they might be referring to, whether it be one person’s experience or if it is something I should really be paying attention to.”

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Graphic by Ben Moulse / *The Breeze*



The SGA Senate officially used the rest of its contingency funds for the academic year at Tuesday night's meeting. Valerie Chenault / The Breeze

Key takeaways from this week's SGA Senate

By **ASHLEE THOMPSON**
The Breeze

The Student Government Association (SGA) Senate allotted money to JMU Young Life, Note-oriety and Chabad Jewish Student Group and approved an academic senator amendment at Tuesday's meeting.

SGA approves funds for Chabad Jewish Student Group

SGA Senate unanimously approved \$5,000 in contingency funds for the Chabad Jewish Student Group — an on-campus group for Jewish students of JMU — to retroactively finance its banquet, MEGA Shabbat, that occurred Feb. 17.

The group previously presented on Feb. 7, where its request for a program grant was approved by the Senate. Afterward, Allyse Dillard, Madison Union fiscal technician, denied the program grant because she said it takes a lot of time to process and the event was too close to the date of request.

At Tuesday's meeting, junior Mahek Shroff, finance liaison, spoke in Chabad Jewish Student Group's favor, saying this is the group's first MEGA Shabbat since COVID-19. Shroff clarified to the Senate that since the Chabad Jewish Student Group had previously requested funds, SGA would be able to approve their \$5,000 request in contingency funds rather than a program grant.

Contingency funds can be requested by organizations for operational needs, Shroff said. They come from student fees that are given to organizations on campus to hold events, conferences and other activities, according to SGA's website. Program grants serve as grant funding to any non-Front-End Budgeting (FEB) student organization for a specific event that has a campus-wide impact.

SGA approves funds for JMU Young Life

SGA Senate approved \$3,000 in contingency funds for JMU Young Life, a Christian-centered ministry that helps students know Jesus and grow in their faith, according to its website. Many senators, however, voted against the resolution due to SGA funding concerns.

Senior Marco Kemp and junior Taylor Wilson, Young Life college leaders, represented the organization and requested the funds for the group's spring break trip to Daytona Beach, Florida.

According to the presentation, JMU Young Life has around 250-300 members and don't have to pay dues. To raise money for the trip, Young Life participates in an annual Wing-A-Thon where money is pledged per wing consumed, Wilson said. The 2023 event will take place Feb. 28.

JMU Young Life is partnering with four other colleges to attend El Caribe Resort in Daytona Beach, Florida — a trip that'll entail various programs and activities for the week and is open to any JMU student regardless of Young Life membership. The cost of the trip is \$399 per person and approximately \$21,000 total for the entire organization. Kemp said the contingency funds will be used for a need-based scholarship, and any money left over will go to gas reimbursement for the volunteer drivers.

"The purpose of this trip is an alternative spring break for college students who don't have enough money to drop \$700-\$800 to go somewhere," Kemp said.

Sophomore Lexi Alston, SGA senator, started the debate with a pro, saying that since the trip is open to all students and is an opportunity to bond, it would be "selfish" for SGA to deny funding.

Shroff said if the Senate passed every request during Tuesday's meeting, it'd be out of contingency funds. Senior Brandon Market, executive treasurer, further clarified

to a worried Senate that while SGA would be out of contingency funds if money for all three groups requesting at the meeting were approved, it'd still have program grants to give to other organizations.

"When making this decision, use your judgment referring to the money as not being an unlimited well we can always pull from," junior Matt Haynicz, SGA representative, said.

Disagreeing with Haynicz, senior Claire Geith, class of 2023 president, noted that the contingency fund is supposed to run out, and since the funds would help a large number of students go on a big trip, the resolution should pass. Junior Parker Boggs, SGA senator, added on to this and said this is the first time the Senate has run out of contingency funds since COVID-19, which he sees as a good thing.

SGA approves funds for JMU Note-oriety

SGA Senate unanimously approved \$3,000 in contingency funds for JMU Note-oriety, an a cappella group on campus.

Junior Maggie Pruim, acting business manager of Note-oriety, requested funds to celebrate its 25th Anniversary weekend this spring. The celebration will include cookouts and a formal banquet dinner for alumni, as well as a 25th Anniversary concert.

Pruim said Note-oriety raised around \$700 in ticket sales during its last concert and is currently working on a calendar fundraiser that's brought in \$2,000 so far. The group collects dues every semester and earns royalties from music streaming platforms like Spotify and Apple Music, Pruim said.

Pruim said the contingency funds would mainly go toward the banquet and catering.

"This is a weekend for our alumni," Pruim said. "We are trying our best to make it to where they don't have to pay anything out of pocket to come here to hang out with new members."

Due to contingency fund restrictions and a lack of funds, Shroff requested a friendly

amendment to the resolution, changing the amount from \$3,000 to \$2,432.92.

"JMU Note-oriety puts a lot of effort in making this weekend happen, and I think the funds would be a boost for their organization," Shroff said.

Junior Marlena Kozlowski, university services chair, agreed, saying that the a cappella group performed a "great" show at the Quad Lighting in December and the Senate should "keep funding their awesomeness."

With approving requests for Chabad Jewish Student Group, JMU Young Life and Note-oriety, SGA Senate officially used the rest of its contingency funds for the academic year.

Senate passes academic senator amendment

The Senate approved a new amendment, with only one nay by Boggs. The new amendment, written by senior academic affairs chair Zachary Flemming, states there'll be only two Senate seats per academic college and 14 senators total. Currently, the number of Senate seats are representative of each college's population, similar to the structure of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mimicking the U.S. Senate, Flemming said limiting the number of seats will "release stress" in trying to fill the seats as well as condense meetings.

Boggs dissented and said he feels proportion matters in this case because some colleges are significantly bigger than others and deserve more representation.

"If the current system is failing, then two per college would give each college equal representation," Haynicz said in agreement with the amendment.

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Accommodation additions

Office of Disability Services opens second testing location

from ODS, page 1

Grace Lynch, a junior psychology major at JMU, said she uses the original ODS testing center when she can but emphasized that it's consistently booked, making it difficult to find space to take a test. Lynch said, on average, she uses the testing center about three times a week.

"The center is helpful in my academic success when there is room available," Lynch said.

Madyson Haas, a junior psychology major, shared Lynch's sentiment about the busyness of the original testing location. She said although the testing center is helpful to have quiet, less distracting areas for test taking, it can often be overcrowded. Haas said there've been roughly 10 times over the past year where either the time of her class has been booked or the entire day has been booked, forcing her to take the test or quizzes earlier or later than the rest of her class. However, she said she thinks the opening of the second location will improve this issue.

"I do think the new center is helping a lot with how many people they can serve because the old center only fits 18 students, and this new location more than doubled that number," Haas said.

Chris Kinney, associate director of ODS, said the new location



The new ODS testing location doubles daily test bookings from 40 to 80 slots. Abi Middleton / The Breeze

includes more windows, less distractions and a quieter area that allows for a more positive testing experience. With this, JMU is working on upgrading the original space, too, by adding noise reduction devices.

Kinney said the discussion of expanding to a second location was originally initiated by Tim Miller, vice president for student affairs, but many people helped pull the project together,

including electricians and facilities management.

The new location didn't cost JMU much, Kinney said. Facilities management pulled existing materials from other places, like table dividers, he said, and added computers into the center that JMU already owned — "not a lot of money was spent overhead," he said.

Kinney said ODS has also hired four more staff members to coordinate the new center with two shifts of part-time workers throughout the day.

ODS saw an opportunity over winter break to work on and finalize the expansion, Kinney said, and the new location was built in about a month, beginning in January and finishing Feb. 1. The new location officially began taking students on Feb. 6.

Bright said ODS works in demand for all accommodations, so as the student population keeps increasing, ODS administrators will continue to discuss expansion of additional testing centers. Once the current two centers reach overcapacity, then ODS will revisit the idea of growth, he said.

CONTACT Abby Chamot at chamotar@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.

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JMU ATHLETICS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

ATLANTIC UNION BANK CENTER



FEBRUARY 24 - 5:00 PM





SENIOR NIGHT
SPRING BREAK TANK TOP &
TRADING CARD GIVEAWAY







MEN'S BASKETBALL

ATLANTIC UNION BANK CENTER



FEBRUARY 24 - 8:00 PM



SENIOR NIGHT
TRADING CARD GIVEAWAY







BASEBALL

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK FREE ENTRY



FEBRUARY 24 - 3:00 PM SCHEDULE MAGNET GIVEAWAY



FEBRUARY 25 - 2:00 PM SCHEDULE MAGNET GIVEAWAY



FEBRUARY 26 - 1:00 PM SCHEDULE MAGNET GIVEAWAY



FEBRUARY 28 - 3:00 PM '70s GAME



SPRING SPORTS ARE HERE!

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SENTARA PARK

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 | 5 PM

#6  T-SHIRT GIVEAWAY



FRIDAY, MARCH 4 | 12 PM



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HILLSIDE COURTS

SATURDAY, MARCH 4 | 1 PM

TUESDAY, MARCH 8 | 2 PM



Expression protection

Madison Center fosters conversation on First Amendment, campus safety

By **ELEANOR SHAW**
The Breeze

The James Madison Center for Civic Engagement hosted the second session of its Freedom of Expression Information Series on Tuesday to discuss “Personal Safety and Security: Weapons and Explosives,” specifically on how freedom of expression impacts campus safety.

Malika Carter-Hoyt, JMU’s vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and chief diversity officer, facilitated the Zoom discussion, which featured Arthur Dean, associate vice president for DEI; and Mark Young Sr., director of emergency services and risk management at JMU.

Participants were asked to submit their questions prior to the discussion. There were 41 participants in total. Unlike the first discussion, participants weren’t offered an opportunity to speak up unless explicitly invited.

Carter-Hoyt mentioned the Vision of the Commonwealth, which outlines the guiding principles for public education in Virginia.

“We are part of a larger structure that makes Virginia run,” Carter-Hoyt said.

Carter-Hoyt asked the guests to speak on how free expression has impacted their respective professions.

“One of the things we try to do in emergency management ... is to be brutally honest and find a solution to something that may have ... a problem going on,” Young said.

Young said on both the emergency management

side and the risk management side, it’s important to be brutally honest to find out what’s wrong

Carter-Hoyt introduced a tool called the Johari Window, which she said is used to think through situations to analyze what one can and can’t see ... including oneself and others. Carter-Hoyt said she’s used the Johari Window on a policy terrain and in an institutional way.

Carter-Hoyt asked, generally, what trainings Dean and Young have encountered in their professions. Young spoke of his experience with JMU’s police department and building coordinators and efforts to keep an open line of communication flowing through campus, while Dean acknowledged safety trainings put in place in the wake of the 2007 mass shooting at Virginia Tech.

“There’s a lot going on in the country, as well as the average neighborhood,” Dean said. “Many people are attracted to this topic because they may have experienced something.”

Carter-Hoyt also discussed the Clery Act, federal legislation enacted in 1990, which universities nationwide are legally bound to follow, including JMU. The Clery Act requires all universities, private or public, to report crimes on and around their campuses.

The conversation then transitioned to protected speech — which was defined as “all ideas”, including art, political beliefs and controversial speech. Carter-Hoyt identified the First Amendment as the ultimate legal framework when it comes to free speech.

Personal Safety & Security: Weapons and Explosives

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION SERIES



February, 2023

Hosted by Dr. Malika Carter-Hoyt

● JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY ●

Graphic by Ali McCaleb / The Breeze

Phi Beta Kappa has sent out Invites!

*Be sure to check your emails
as of February 15th*

www.jmu.edu/pbk/



“It is important for people who do the work of inclusion to understand ... just what their responsibilities are and just what their rights are,” Carter-Hoyt said.

The First Amendment protects the freedom of speech, protest, press, petition and religion. The panel focused specifically on speech.

Carter-Hoyt mentioned key Supreme Court cases that provide additional framework when it comes to protections and restrictions of free speech, including *Texas v. Johnson*, which ruled burning the American flag was protected speech under the First Amendment; *Saxe v. State College Area School District*, which ruled that policy restricting “unwelcome” and “offensive” speech on public school grounds violates the First Amendment’s Free Speech Clause; and *Tinker v. Des Moines*, which defined First Amendment rights of students in U.S. public schools.

She also identified harassment and threats as being unprotected by the First Amendment. Dean differentiated the two, saying harassment is offensive while threats have the intention of harm or violence.

“The challenge for most people is our own definitions,” Dean said. “JMU’s processes are determined by how we define them. The key piece is how we help people navigate these things.”

The three speakers discussed the processes of reporting, investigating and handling real or perceived threats that are reported on campus, which varies by department. The participants said the process begins with a report, and the investigation and resolution are dependent on each department. Dean and Young both encouraged participants to be involved and speak up about what they may see on campus.

“If we see something, we don’t just want to ignore it,” Dean said. “We want to say something.” Young said to create a more open and comfortable environment, it’s necessary to create a sense of transparency and trust within the community, to which Dean agreed.

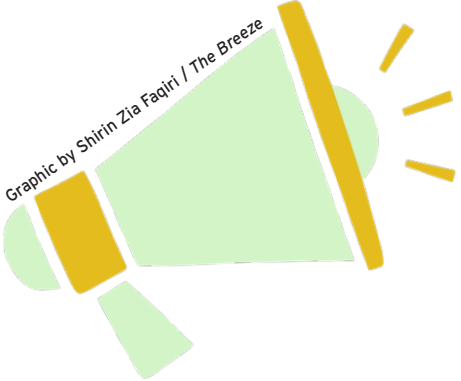
Carter-Hoyt then introduced the questions submitted prior to the session, which focused on issues such as the right to bear arms, finding common ground in contentious conversations, intentions of weapon ownership, JMU’s weapon policy and active shooter situations. Specific questions included what should people do during an active shooter situation and how people can find common ground with someone who has a different opinion on the right to bear arms than they do.

JMU Police Department (JMU PD) Police Chief Anthony Matos attended the event and contributed to the conversation. Matos said there are no national firearm restrictions besides the fact that someone must be legally able to obtain one.

“We [JMU police] can make sure that we provide the best possible safety and security on this campus through our visual presence [and] what we bring in terms of our tactics and our training.”

Carter-Hoyt closed the panel by thanking guests and participants and encouraged them to join a future session in the ongoing series. The next event in the Freedom of Expression series is March 21.

CONTACT Eleanor Shaw at shaweo@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.



Anthony Matos, JMU Chief of Police, discussed the role JMU PD plays in campus safety during the Zoom event. Breeze file photo



Malika Carter-Hoyt, vice president for DEI and chief diversity officer, facilitated the Zoom event. Courtesy of JMU

THE PANTRY

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The photo exhibit displays nine pictures portraying various people and places that hold significance to African American history in the Valley. Christian Wright / The Breeze

Moments in time

Friendly City Co-Op and Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project partner to share Black history photo exhibit

By **MORGAN VUKNIC**
The Breeze

Learn. Share. Illuminate.

This is the mission of the Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project (SVBHP) — a group of local historians, writers, artists, teachers, interested community members and descendants of Black Harrisonburg residents who recover and share resources about Black history in Harrisonburg.

The project started in 2013, and the official heritage center opened in 2018 outside of downtown Harrisonburg on Hill Street. Founding member and vice president of SVBHP Robin Lyttle, along with other executive board members, created a photo exhibit in partnership with the Friendly City Co-Op to visualize Black history in Harrisonburg.

The planning for the exhibit began in 2020 but when the pandemic hit, plans got put on hold and the exhibit didn't officially open until June 2022, Lyttle said.

Titled "What has gone before ... 1850-present," the exhibit's located in the cafe of the co-op and features nine prints of various notable Black people and landmarks that have majorly contributed to Harrisonburg's history. All the photos are in black and white, except the most recent photo of Barber standing in front of the co-op.

Near what's High Street today used to be thriving, predominantly Black neighborhoods, which consisted of mainly formerly enslaved people and their descendants, until the 1950s and '60s when Harrisonburg's Department of Housing and Urban Development declared eminent domain of all houses in the northeast part of the city, according to WMRA.

Lyttle said these residents were then relocated into smaller and poorer areas of Harrisonburg so that the city could build new housing where many Black families used to live. SVBHP founding member and current advisory board member Sharon Barber said once families were forced out of their homes, the city demolished them. Today, this period of time is known as "Urban Renewal."

Barber lived on High Street during this period. She said she remembers being a girl and having strangers coming to her house and telling her mom they had to move out.

"I was 12 when my family had to move and I'll always remember it," Barber said. "We all went to this field north of my house and looked at all the houses torn down around us. I remember walking through this graveyard [of houses] and thinking, 'This is where we're going to live.'"

Barber said the memories of Black families being uprooted from their homes still sticks with her today, which is why she believes it's important to learn about Harrisonburg's Black history.

Working with the co-op, Barber and Lyttle wanted to bring attention to the Black history of Harrisonburg through photos. The exhibit features photos of emancipated slave William Strother's house; DJ Lake & Co. 1885 atlases that identify African American families, churches and schools; members standing outside of Newman Insurance Offices and the Blue Circle's headquarters; well-known chefs and caterers Savilla Toliver Vickers and Edna Toliver Rhodes; Savilla Vickers' home; an aerial view of African American owned houses; the First Baptist Church and Parsonage, which was torn down to expand South Mason Street, formally known as Mason Drive; Jim and Joe Driver, who opened the first Mick-or-Mack store, a local grocery retailer chain that has since gone out of business, in Harrisonburg in 1931; and Barber outside of the co-op.

Lyttle said the co-op came to SVBHP asking them to put together the exhibit because the co-op itself is on property formerly owned by Black people and the staff wanted to honor that in some way. She added that displays like this are important because it's important to know your history. Especially for older generations, Lyttle said, racial history is not often taught in schools, so it's necessary for people to go out and learn about it themselves.

"We have to build trust among communities in the area," Lyttle said. "We can't move forward as a country or community without addressing racism. One of the main reasons we started

[the exhibit] is to create a better understanding amongst people and to bridge those gaps among communities."

General manager of the co-op, Steve Cook, said over email that his goal with the display is to give visitors a small glimpse at the Black history of Harrisonburg since many areas with Black residents were demolished during the urban renewal. He said he hopes visitors will then take what they've learned and go visit places such as SVBHP to become better educated on the history of the area.

"Many who have seen [the exhibit] have been surprised to learn the history but are grateful to learn the story," Cook said over email. "It's crucial to acknowledge the history of the community and to amplify these stories."

While the photo display was a request from the co-op, Lyttle said she's happy SVBHP had the opportunity to put together something like this. She said she hopes the photos will serve as a learning experience for community members who come and visit the co-op.

"I hope people come away with a better understanding of the contributions that the African American community has made to Harrisonburg," Lyttle said. "It's time to develop a better understanding of what came before us. It's not pretty, it's not easy, but at least we can learn from it so that history doesn't repeat itself."

Cook said over email that, as of right now, the exhibit will stay up continuously at the co-op. He said this so that as many people as possible can see it and learn about the history of Harrisonburg that's so often erased.

"History is not just what you learn in school, it's all around us," Cook said. "You can learn more from listening to those who lived through those times and visiting the places where events took place. We need to remember what came before us."

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Word Is Born Writers' Society members said they encourage audience members to participate in their open mic nights and step out of their comfort zones. Courtesy of Sara Buie

Snaps for poetry

Word Is Born Writers' Society holds annual open mic night

By **MATEO CSERNECKY**
contributing writer

The sound of snaps filled the room as passionate voices emptied their hearts out on topics such as sexuality, reflection, breakups and love. On a stage, lit with pink lights, surrounded by colored rose petals and dressed elegantly, the Word Is Born Writers' Society (WIB) held its annual Love Me, Love Me Not open mic night to a crowded audience in Taylor Down Under (TDU) last Wednesday.

The night began with Society executives and members sharing excerpts from stories they've written, poems they've written or admired and self-written pieces of flash fiction. Each performance received a chorus of snaps by the audience as they cheered the members on. After a brief intermission for a best-dressed contest, the stage was open to audience members to share something of their own. Several audience members shared personal pieces with the rest of the room, many receiving their respective snaps and cheers of approval.

"Events help bring awareness to our wonderful writers and the club at large," Amber Dow, senior biotechnology major and WIB president, said. "For me, it is a wonderful opportunity to share what I love with the public and encourage others to express themselves."

The WIB holds an open mic night every semester — Spook Night in the fall and Love Me, Love Me Not in the spring. Junior WIB treasurer Katharine Burgess described the event as a "showcase for writers both in and outside the club" with one of the event's goals being "to get people more interested in creative writing."

Freshman psychology major and WIB member Madeleine Magnant praised open mic nights for the opportunities it gave writers to present their work and to recognize each others accomplishments.

The event also allows society members to share their work with people who might not be writers themselves, a different audience than when they share their pieces during meetings.

"Opening things up to the audience reveals how talented people are," Burgess said. "Many of them aren't in any writing-oriented major but it's wonderful how they feel safe to go up and read something they wrote."

Magnant said the open mic portion allows students to "step out of their comfort zone" and try something new. Magnant also mentioned their love for being an audience member and watching non-members share their writing.

"Honestly, one of the best parts of the event is getting the chance to openly marvel at how skilled these writers are, both inside and outside of the club," Magnant said.

As Dow mentioned, the open mic night allows WIB members to "share the basis of collaborating, curating and celebrating writing" that's at the center of the Society with outside members.

"[WIB] is a great space for anyone with an interest in writing to develop their own writing, learn from other writers and build a community of understanding, thoughtful, creative people," Magnant said.

Both Burgess and Magnant hailed WIB as a place to "relax and unwind" as they work on and grow their writing free from the stress of grades. Burgess mentioned how the club allowed her to "grow into different mediums" with her writing, such as poetry and short narratives, and improve at constructive criticism.

Magnant said being a member has benefited them, praising the "community of friends" the society gave them, as well as it being a chance to be inspired by the work that is shared by others, much like Dow.

"Word Is Born has meant the world to me," Dow said. "I joined right before COVID hit. It provided stability and friendships that have lasted many years. Multiple members who have graduated still interact with and support the club. It has provided me with so much confidence in myself and my writing ability."

The sense of community is one of the biggest appeals, according to all three club members. Although intimidated as a freshman, Magnant said everyone was easy to get along with and admired the humor and "sense of passion" within the group. Magnant also said they appreciated the lack of judgment within WIB, saying it fosters more collaboration than competition and they don't feel the need to prove themselves for any reason. The drive to write doesn't come from a need to excel at it, but "from a love of language and what it can create," they added.

"I'm passionate about writing because I think it's one of the many ways people attempt to communicate their experience," Magnant said. "Life is fast-paced and the way we communicate with each other isn't always mindful, and so reading and writing is an opportunity to slow down and understand, and in turn, be understood."

Through WIB, JMU students get to foster and explore the world of writing and their love for it. Whether it's through group writes during meetings, sharing stories for feedback or events such as the open mics, all of them are a "celebration of writing," Magnant said.

"I hope younger members know that it isn't as scary as it looks to share their work," Dow said. "I want them to be confident in themselves as writers. I love every single member of this club and I am so excited to see where the future takes them and their writing."

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A WEALTH OF HEALTH

Benefits of caffeine alternatives and how to reduce your intake

By **HANNAH LIFRIERI**
The Breeze

Caffeine is a prominent routine for many Americans on a day-to-day basis. Around 74% of Americans drink coffee daily, according to Statista.

Between having countless cafes and vending machines filled with energy drinks throughout campus, finding caffeine isn't a problem — but falling into the cycle of relying on caffeine for daily functions could be.

Caffeine gives you the boost of energy you may want when looking for ways to make yourself feel more awake. According to MedlinePlus, caffeine's a stimulant for the central nervous system, and it's easy to overdo it. Drinking upward of 400 milligrams of caffeine — about four or five cups of coffee or two energy drinks — can lead to negative side effects such as insomnia, dehydration, headaches and even anxiety. The more caffeine a person consumes, according to MedlinePlus, the more likely they are to rely on it.

Natural alternatives

JMU Health Sciences Department professor Sherri Wilson said she isn't an avid caffeine consumer for health reasons, but she suggests if anyone were to consume caffeine, her "golden rule" is moderation. She said too much of anything isn't necessarily good for you, especially caffeine.

According to Harvard Health, starting off the day with breakfast can help avoid an afternoon crash. Choosing whole grains and more protein can be more beneficial than sugary carbohydrates. Protein takes longer to break down than carbs, leaving the body energized for longer, said Tiffany Barrett, contributing writer for CNN and registered dietician at Emory University's Winship Cancer Institute. Barrett said there's no need to avoid carbohydrates as they also provide energy, but to be mindful as many carbohydrates lack fiber.

It's common for students to have poor sleep schedules because of staying up late completing work or studying. When the next morning hits, it's common to see them reaching for caffeine.

Boosting your energy levels in a natural way can help reduce the amount of caffeine you consume daily. While caffeine has its benefits, it has many negative side effects, especially when consumed at high rates. Fueling your body with nutritious foods will help maintain natural energy and could replace the need to rely on caffeine.

Read the full article at breezejmu.org.



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Valentines and Amor are eight-week-old hound mixes currently receiving care at Anicira.
Abi Middleton / The Breeze

Nonprofit vet hospital offers low-cost care for Harrisonburg pets

By **SHIRIN ZIA FAQIRI**
The Breeze

Valentines and Amor arrive at Anicira from local shelters. These puppies, eight-week-old hound mixes, are receiving vaccines and additional care in preparation to be adopted.

"It's pretty amazing what you see," Katie Nicholson, Anicira marketing and communications director, said. "Pets come in, who are very, very sick and you see them recover. You see families who are in need and can't afford care, and we're able to help them and it's a really emotional process. It's a pretty amazing place to work."

Anicira, a nonprofit veterinary hospital, collaborates with local shelters like the Rockingham/Harrisonburg SPCA (RHSPCA), Greene County Animal Shelter and Cats Cradle. With an influx of animals coming into shelters and rising costs stopping many people from caring for pets, Nicholson said they work with the shelters to offer low-cost spay and neuter operations, reducing the growing pet population.

Nicholson said the hospital serves both JMU students and residents.

"We serve everyone in the community, but we also offer free services to certain members of our community who are in need of extra help," Nicholson said. "So [that means] affordable care for all and subsidized care for those who need it."

Nicholson also said Anicira offers affordable care through Operation Free Pet Health Care, a program which "provides anything from general medical and wellness care all the way up to advanced surgeries."

"With that program, we're able to provide subsidized care to over 2,000 pets each year," Nicholson said. "That program is supported through donations and support of our community members."

Anicira also offers a pet food pantry where its staff takes pet food and litter that's been donated and distributes it twice a month on

the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. Dan Chavez, Anicira operations coordinator, said one Saturday earlier in February they distributed around 9,500 pounds of food to just over 100 families.

"It was a fairly large event ... We just anticipate we're gonna have every couple of weeks in similar measures," Chavez said. "Right now, we're on pace, given what we've seen so far in the first two months, that we're going to be exceeding even what we did last year, raising almost 400,000 meals for pets."

Brittney Hoover, lead licensed veterinary technician at Anicira, said working for the nonprofit is a great chance to treat patients who wouldn't normally be able to get the care that they need. She said because of tight budget costs, they sometimes have to think outside the box for medication and treatment.

"We have to figure out ways to maximize the amount of medications that we can give or different types of treatment protocols that we can do with the budget," Hoover said.

"It can get interesting and trying at times, but it also, you know, allows us as technicians to utilize all of our skills and ... kind of take on more of a leadership role in cases like that," Nicholson reflected on the different cases that she witnessed during her time at Anicira.

She's seen everything from dogs who've been hit by cars and needed leg amputations to a cat being shot and needing the bullet removed.

"We see some of the saddest stuff ... but we also are able to help the pets and that's really what it's all about," Nicholson said. "Part of our mission is to keep animals with the people who love them with their families by providing affordable veterinary care."

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JMU students bring their pets to the Quad to enjoy the open space and get some fresh air. Shirin Zia Faqiri / The Breeze



The Quad provides a social environment for students to hang out and unwind, psychology professor Jaime Kurtz said. Ryan Sauer / The Breeze

'A fun little vibe'

The Quad plays pivotal role in college experience, students say

from **QUAD**, page 1

Jaime Kurtz, a professor in JMU's department of psychology, also told The Breeze there's a possible connection between being outside and mental health and said that although some research would need to be done to prove causation, feeling the fresh air helps with mental health.

"I think there's probably a connection for a couple of reasons," Kurtz said. "Just being out socially, being around people ... just being out of your own world."

Kurtz mentioned connections between being outside and feeling less stress along with increase in creativity and emphasized the importance of the social environment that the Quad provides.

"Definitely connections with being outside and feeling less stress, some evidence that it enhances creativity ... The social piece, I think that's super huge," Kurtz said.

Several students spoke to The Breeze about their relationship with the Quad, each reporting a positive experience and impacts on mental health.

Stress relief

Junior Aween Ahmed said she's loved being outside in nature ever since she was small and that she uses time in the sun to get her mind off things.

"It's kind of like a self-care thing," Ahmed said. "Just to come out and take a minute

to get away from all the school and other academic things."

Sophomore Molly Johnson said the Quad "feels like an escape" and freshman Ally Gabrynowicz agreed. Johnson said she enjoys the people-watching opportunities, while Gabrynowicz said being on the Quad allows her to take some time away from her academics after being in classes.

"When you're in class, this is a good way to step back," Gabrynowicz said. "It helps your thinking to do school later on."

Ahmed, a self-reported fan of being outdoors, described the relaxing feeling of being on the Quad.

"The sun hitting you is the best thing ever," Ahmed said. "It's very relaxing, it's calming ... just a fun little vibe."

Freshman Olivia Luizzi agreed the Quad is a good place to relax and be in the sun, and it's quiet, too.

"It's very relaxing," she said. "It's also so quiet, oddly enough, for being the center of campus."

Motivation

An increase in motivation was also reported by several students. In addition to the Quad being a way to step back for Gabrynowicz, she also said it improves her thinking later in the day when she's doing schoolwork.

"You're still doing school, but you're in a better atmosphere," Gabrynowicz said. "It's better than going on your phone or laying in bed because you're outside."

Freshmen Samantha Borromeo and Gabriella

Meyer said their motivation increases when they get to spend time on the Quad, too. Both said the fresh air puts them in a better mood and makes them feel more productive.

"Being in a better mood makes you want to do things or use your time wisely throughout your day," Borromeo said.

Freshman Savannah Talley said being on the Quad while the sun is out puts her in a "better mental headspace" to get her work done.

"It helps me stay more motivated to do work than being in Carrier or Rose," Talley said.

Happiness

The Quad is a known mood-booster among all the students who spoke to The Breeze. Meyer said there's "something special" about the Quad that puts her in a better mood.

Freshman Mallory Beemus said she prefers the natural lighting the Quad provides and said sitting out there "romanticizes" the college experience for her, comparing it to a coming-of-age movie.

Talley built on this point, describing the Quad as a "focal point" of JMU.

"It's neat because you see all the pictures of people on the Quad," Talley said, "and now we're the ones on the Quad."

Talley also noted how the warmer weather makes her happy, taking her out of that "seasonal depression."

Borromeo also noted the Quad being a focal point, describing how the Quad makes her feel at home.

"When I think about JMU, I think about the

Quad," Borromeo said. "That's the first thing that comes to mind. It gives me a homey feel."

Kurtz also mentioned a correlation between the Quad and happiness, emphasizing that while he can't assume causation, there's reason to believe a positive relationship among the two exists.

Talley touched on the social aspect of the Quad being the center of campus, emphasizing how easy it is to meet people.

"Socially, it's nice just to see everyone out and about ... You can really socialize, you can meet new people," Talley said.

Gabrynowicz said being on the Quad on such a "beautiful day" has been a small thing in her college career that's lifted her overall mood and that she's often opted to go on the Quad to finish her homework rather than the library.

"It just made my day to just be sitting here," Gabrynowicz said. "It's such a simple thing."

Luizzi said being outside and getting fresh air is a "mental health booster" for her and that she plans on going to the Quad every day that the sun is out and it's warm enough to do so.

"We are big Quad fans," Luizzi said, speaking for herself and the person she was on the Quad with. "We see the sun come out and we're like, 'Ooh, Quad day.'"

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'The hardest decision'

Sixteen years after Title IX cuts,
JMU Athletics reflects on the long-term effects

from **TITLE IX**, page 1

If universities want federal funds, they must adhere to at least one of three requirements outlined in Title IX:

1. The percentage of intercollegiate athletes has to match the make-up of the university's student body.
2. A school must show it meets athletic interests and abilities of underrepresented students.
3. A school must show it expands its opportunities for underrepresented students.

JMU chose Option 1. Seven of the 10 sports JMU cut in 2007 were men's sports — swim & dive, cross country, indoor and outdoor track and field, cross, gymnastics, wrestling and archery — and three were women's sports: gymnastics, fencing and archery. Bourne said this kept JMU in compliance with Title IX.

"I felt like I had been eating and breathing this decision," Bourne said in an interview with *The Breeze* in 2006. "It's the hardest decision I've made in 20 years."

Bourne said the decision didn't come easily or on a whim — it stretched over 18 months.

So let's start there.

According to a 2001 article from *The Washington Post*, JMU's student body was 58% female at the time, but its athletics' teams were only 41% female. JMU was in compliance with Title IX, but it still chose to create a two-tiered system of scholarship and nonscholarship sports.

The university downgraded 12 of JMU's 28 sports — men's swimming, indoor and outdoor track and field, cross country, golf, wrestling, tennis and gymnastics, and women's swimming, golf, tennis and gymnastics — to a nonscholarship status. At the time, three additional sports, fencing and men's and women's archery, were already nonscholarship programs.

The Board of Visitors' vote to move the 12 sports was unanimous, according to *The Breeze's* report in 2001, and created the two-tiered system between the scholarships and nonscholarship sports. Bourne said JMU looked into making cuts in 2001 and, upon talking with the Board of Visitors, he said the

university decided the time wasn't right.

"We were fine there. We had added softball, we have added women's soccer, we've done things to add some sports over time," Kevin Warner, assistant athletic director for communications, said. But "our proportion was out of line" with JMU's student body, Warner added, because the number of athletes in 2001 was 50.7% women and 49.3% men.

"If a group brought legal action against you, basically, you would not win that legal action," Warner said. "We were not in proportion of female athletes and female student body. I mean, technically, you're only at risk until someone can bring legal action, and the threat was we had women's clubs, sports that were pushing to become varsity sports, and we would have had to do something."

Bourne said football has about 100 athletes, that number equalling four to five women's teams. He said JMU was "in a tough spot" to say no to the petitioning sports clubs.

The issue with having to add those sports and adhere to the second or third elements of Title IX was that JMU wasn't able to afford them. Bourne said JMU's student enrollment was about 61% female and 39% male in 2006.

"To either add sports or legally to meet Title IX, we would have had to cut women's sports," Warner said. "And that's where the hand was forced then. OK, the budget isn't there to add sports, we had to cut sports."

Bourne said the sports being discussed for possible elimination all went into "fundraising mode." He said that even though looking at potential programs, they could've been successful and competitive immediately, the budget didn't have the space for resources the programs needed, even with fundraising.

"We'll raise the resources to support our programs," Bourne said. "We won't require state dollars for that. Even though they tried, that's almost an impossible task."

And it left JMU with a



The Board of Visitors announced Friday afternoon that JMU was eliminating 10 sports in order to become Title IX compliant.

10 Sports Eliminated

BOV makes decision to comply with Title IX laws

BY MATTHEW STOSS
senior writer

After cutting the funding of multiple intercollegiate sports in 2001, the JMU Board of Visitors announced its intentions to cut 10 of those sports entirely in order to become Title IX compliant.

"I'm sure that athletes and their families will be disappointed just as our coaches will," JMU President Linwood Rose said in a Friday press conference. "And they won't be the only ones, because I think there are many other people who aren't directly connected who are also going to be disappointed with the decision."

"The fact is, we had to comply with the law." Effective July 1, 2007, JMU will no longer sponsor men's archery, cross-country, gymnastics, indoor track, outdoor track, swimming and diving and wrestling. On the women's side, the university cut archery, gymnastics and fencing. However, student-athletes on scholarship will retain their

scholarships for the remainder of their enrollment in good standing at JMU. Out of the 144 athletes affected by the decision, eight receive aid, totaling \$13,500.

The three full-time coaches and eight part-time coaches will be granted full severance pay in accordance with university policy.

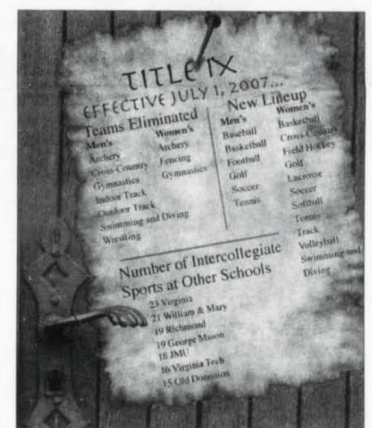
The decision to reduce the number of intercollegiate-sponsored sports had been in discussion for the past 18 months.

"I felt like I have been eating and breathing this decision," JMU athletic director Jeff Bourne said. "It is the hardest decision I've made in 20 years."

Once fully implemented, the decision will afford women's golf, women's tennis and women's swimming, and diving full scholarships. Men's golf and men's tennis will be granted partial scholarships until 2011, when they will be fully funded.

In order to be Title IX compliant, a university's athletic teams must reflect the male-to-female ratio of the student body. At JMU, the enrollment is 61 percent female and 39 percent male. The sports teams are 50.7 percent female and 49.3 percent male.

see **TITLE IX**, page 4



LAUREN PACKARD director

The Breeze's front page on Oct. 2, 2006, after the news broke. Breeze archives

difficult, but stark, reality.

From there, in 2006, Bourne said JMU had to talk to coaches. He said he wanted to make sure the coaches heard it from him and not through phones or social media, since it was just starting to take off. Bourne said he had to coordinate an effort to make sure everyone heard at the same time.

"The last thing you want to do is hear that from someone that is not affiliated," Bourne said. "It was challenging. It was a very lengthy, painful process to go through. It was a tough meeting, I think, on both sides. But we talked through the issues. I don't know that folks really fully understood or [knew] why the decision was made, and didn't want to hear that, probably."

The immediate response and pushback

Once the decision struck, there were tears, anger and pure confusion.

"Our hopes and dreams were crushed," then-senior wrestler Zach Winfrey said to *The Breeze* in 2006. "You could see it on everyone's face."

JMU Athletics tried to do what it could to continue supporting the athletes who faced the decision's consequences, Bourne said.

"It was challenging. It was a very lengthy, painful process to go through."

Jeff Bourne

JMU Director of Athletics

Scholarships were honored for those affected through the remainder of their time at the university, and the University Recreation Center (UREC) helped the cut sports' transition from varsity to club — where many of those sports remain today.

The decision also led to the reinstatement of fully funded scholarships across the remaining 18 sports. Sixteen of those were fully funded by July 1, 2007, and men's golf and tennis were given partial scholarships until 2011 before becoming fully funded.

But the athletes weren't satisfied with it.

"At first, everyone was pissed," Freitag said. "Then there was a little bit of denial. We kept trying to figure out different ways that we could maybe get them to delay it or rethink it or, you know, somehow that we were going to be competing next year."

Freitag, the men's swimmer, spent his time at JMU trying to find a way to continue competing, even after the men's swim program was cut. His goal was to eventually go to North Carolina State for graduate school for his final year of eligibility.

He calls himself a "creature of habit" who likes having a routine every day. But once the cuts were made, he didn't have that constant

routine. There were no scheduled practices, no competitions and no coaches, and Freitag was on his own.

Freitag worked with current JMU swim and dive head coach Dane Pedersen — who was an assistant coach at the time — to train with the women's program, but his academics suffered. He didn't get into NC State like he had hoped to.



A cartoon was created for an opinion piece about Title IX requirements in *The Breeze*. Breeze archives

"I was the worst student," Freitag said. "It kind of really scared me straight and I had to find my identity again."

Other athletes tried to find a way for JMU Athletics to reinstate the sports and as the July 1, 2007, date loomed, the athletes continued trying to figure out a way to keep their sport where it was.

Jenn Chapman, a former track and field athlete (2003-07) and president for the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), helped lead some of the protests athletes held and found ways for different programs to support one another.

She spoke in front of the Board of Visitors and sold T-shirts, she even had the football team cheer on the women's gymnastics program at a meet, singing "The Roof is On Fire." Chapman later received the All Together One award in 2007, given to a member of Omicron Delta Kappa for excellence in leadership and character, for her efforts with the other programs.

"She has offered us hope and helped us through this difficult process," former gymnast Natalie Moore (2004-07) said in her nomination letter to Omicron Delta Kappa. "She has come to many of our practices and talked to us about the issue. Jenn's track team was not even one of the teams that were cut, but she has still supported all of the teams. She has come to every home competition that these teams have had."

Equity in Athletics Inc., a not-for-profit nonstock corporation, took on litigation against JMU, taking the case through the U.S. Court of Appeals and attempted to have the U.S. Supreme Court hear the case in 2009. The Supreme Court refused to hear the case, according to a 2009 article from *The Breeze*.

"I think people still hoped that we were going to compete that next year," Freitag said. "I don't necessarily think that after that initial anger set in that it really hit until the official ... cuts were made."

2023 impacts: In Harrisonburg and beyond

Bourne recently attended an NCAA convention. He said there wasn't an hour that went by where the conversation wouldn't

circle back to, "How many more years can programs across the board be supported? Without some adjustments?"

He said "adjustments," in this sense, means conference realignment.

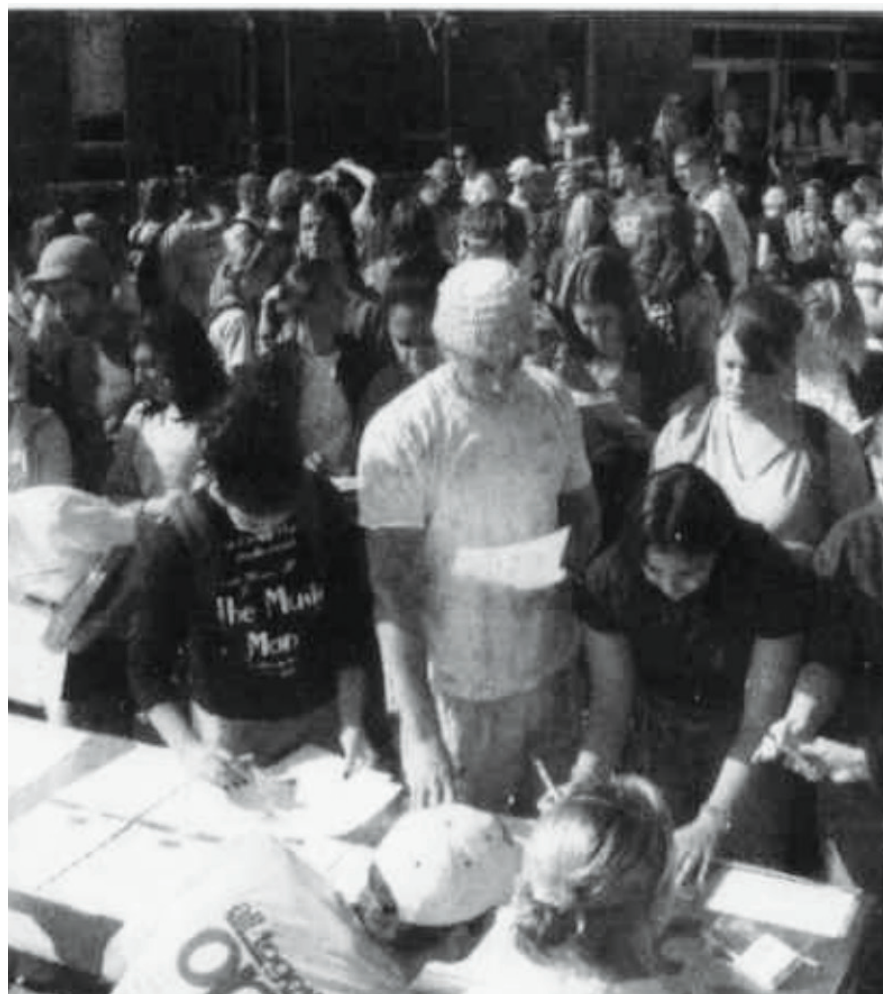
JMU moved to the Sun Belt Conference and the FBS in July 2022. With the move to the FBS, JMU now has 22 more football scholarships to offer. Warner said the move involved conversations with JMU Athletics' Title IX consultant to make sure it could take on these new scholarships without having to add a new sport.

"We had to do the work well in advance with our FBS feasibility study," Warner said. "In our consult on this study, we were able to say ... 'we're OK.' That was a big piece because I don't know, realistically, if the Sun Belt FBS move can happen if we're also having to add sports on top of it to make it happen."

About once a week, Warner said, JMU hears about adding men's lacrosse. The sport is sponsored in the CAA, JMU's former conference, and with the success of JMU's women's lacrosse program, Warner said people have thought for a long time that a men's team can be successful.

Men's lacrosse as a club team has been successful — in 2021-22, the Dukes were 7-2 in the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association (MCLA) and, according to their homepage, have about 50 active members. The MCLA functions similarly to the NCAA, although it operates at the club level, with All-Americans and eligibility rules. JMU qualified for the conference playoffs in 2021-22.

Warner said since the Sun Belt added



JMU student-athletes protested against cutting programs with the Save Our Sports Campaign.

beach volleyball, people ask about that too. However, if JMU is going to commit to a sport, Warner said, it's going to do it the right way: committing to Title IX and resources, he said.

"We already operate this department at such a high level resource-wise, financially," Warner said. "We're only going to do it if they can be successful and do it the right way. I think it's fair to say we're not in a place that we can add those sports, maintain the Title IX compliance, do it the right way fully."

Bourne said because of the cuts, the resources are now spread more equally across the board. Scholarships were reinstated and JMU got out of the two-tiered system, Warner said, and sports had full-time coaching staffs and equipment.

Warner cited women's tennis as an example of this. While "unfortunate," Warner said, regarding the cut scholarships, the team eventually had scholarships reinstated, the coaching staff compensated and cost of attendance set.

"We got up to the point a few years ago, before COVID, where we won our first CAA Championship ever," Warner said, "they're moving on to NCAA play for the first time in the program's history. That's a program, then, that's gotten to that elevated point that they could do that. You don't want to be in a place where you're part of our athletics program, but you really don't have what you need to compete and win championships."

Lacrosse and softball, in the years since the cuts, have both won multiple conference championships and made noise in the NCAA tournament. Lacrosse won the 2018 National Championship and softball made a final four appearance in the Women's

College World Series.

In addition to the success of intercollegiate programs, the cut sports have seen success, too. Former JMU archer Jacob Wukie ('09) stayed in the archery program as it moved over to UREC. Warner said Wukie won multiple national championships at the club level, took a year off in 2008, then returned to JMU in 2009 and later made Team USA and competed in multiple Olympic games.

In its final year as a varsity program, Wukie, then just a freshman, helped led the team to a national title.

"It's a testament to him and his fortitude to get through this situation," Warner said.

This fall, Wukie will be honored in the JMU Athletics Hall of Fame. He's not the first athlete to make the hall of fame from sports that were cut, either. Recently, Anthony Wallace ('03) was a part of the 2022 class for men's track and field.

"We're gonna get to celebrate him this coming fall," Warner said. "It was obviously difficult to go through but I think it's a testament to him and the opportunities he gets."

Freitag said he felt "hatred" toward JMU for a long time. He said he ignored messages about donations, he doesn't keep in touch with his former coaches and teammates too much and he didn't follow most sports once he graduated, except for swim and dive. Freitag said he sends Pedersen a note during conference championships, saying he's rooting for the team that supported him.

But since the Sun Belt move, Freitag said he's starting to pay attention a little bit more. It intrigued him enough to consider coming back to campus for the first time. It's taken a long time, he said, to feel healed from what happened 16 years ago.

"I had a lot of hatred, as I started to find my own identity outside of athletics," Freitag said. "It's a slow process, but I'm slowly getting there."

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JMU lacrosse won its first NCAA title in 2018.

Courtesy of JMU Athletics

Morse's milestone

Men's basketball redshirt senior guard hits 1,000 career points at JMU

By JACKSON HEPHNER
The Breeze

With 5:07 left in the second half and JMU tied with Louisiana, 62-62, on Feb. 18, redshirt senior guard Vado Morse hit a



Morse hit 1,000 points in the Dukes' 74-68 win over Louisiana on Feb. 18. Charlotte Matherly / The Breeze

3-pointer to take the lead, scoring his 1,000th career JMU point in the process.

The crowd at the Atlantic Union Bank Center cheered, but not because of the career milestone. During the game, there was no acknowledgement of Morse's achievement.

The Dukes and Ragin' Cajuns kept playing. After JMU's 74-68 win, Vado was informed of it.

"I should be at two [thousand points]," he joked, "but COVID."

Redshirt sophomore guard Terrence Edwards, at the pressor next to Morse postgame, chimed in, saying, "Four thousand? Five thousand?"

Morse reached 1,000 points at JMU in just under three seasons after transferring from Mount St. Mary's in 2020. But the guard moved on quickly from the topic postgame, focused on the next two games.

JMU head coach Mark Byington had a bit more to say. He reflected on how Morse had transferred to JMU in his first year coaching the Dukes, joining then-freshman forward Justin Amadi, guard Terrell Strickland

and Edwards.

"They had to believe in what we were doing before we were doing it," Byington said.

Byington said he talked to that group about how they needed to have faith. He compared that philosophy to a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: "Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase."

That first step came against Limestone on Nov. 25, 2020. In 22 minutes, the guard scored the first 13 points of his JMU career. Four days later, he doubled his point total, scoring a then-career high 26 points against Radford.

"We believe in coach B and his play calls and his staff," Morse said after that 67-59 win over Radford, "and he believes in us."

Morse is the 34th men's basketball player to reach 1,000 points at JMU. Neither of the three other players who joined the team in 2020 — Amadi, Strickland or Edwards — have reached 800 points for the Dukes, and no other active player on the roster has reached this milestone. The last player to do so was former guard Darius Banks (2017-20) in the 2019-20 season.

Morse hit a new career high in points, 30, against Northeastern on Jan. 24, 2021. That record lasted nearly a year before he scored 32 points against the College of Charleston almost exactly one year later on Jan. 22, 2022. Byington mentioned after the 95-94 win that Morse was returning to his old shooting form after breaking his finger in the first game of the season.

"We know he can shoot. We know we can score," Byington said.

This season, Morse hasn't yet reached 30 points. His two highest-scoring games were back-to-back 25-point performances against Georgia Southern and Troy. Against Louisiana, Morse nearly broke his season high with 24 points.

Morse's road to 1,000 has made an impact on JMU's offense. In 2021-22, Morse led the team in total points (443) and points per game (15.3). This year, Morse is second in points per game with 12.1; Edwards leads the team in average points with .8 more per game.

The program itself has changed since Byington's and Vado's arrival. JMU has won 20 games this season, the first time since 2016. Morse played a big role in that, Byington said, and so have his teammates who joined the team with him in 2020.

"A lot of them wanted this opportunity," Byington said. "And, you know, we're building something here. We're at the start of it, but I think what you're seeing is, you know, the excitement that JMU basketball could be."

Morse's own opportunity to play at JMU has led to 1,016 points. It's an achievement that none of his teammates have yet to accomplish at JMU, and one he looked back on just ever so slightly.

"Yeah," he said of reaching the point milestone, "it was fun."

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While JMU lacrosse head coach Shelley Klaes is in her 17th year at the helm of the Dukes, she said she doesn't see herself leaving the coaching ranks anytime soon. Savannah Reger / *The Breeze*

Lacrosse head coach Shelley Klaes reflects on reaching uncharted heights at alma mater

By **GRANT JOHNSON & HAYDEN HUNDLEY**
The Breeze

Flowers, a thank you note, a cake, a poster and a wooden "JMU" board all awaited an initially unbeknownst Shelley Klaes.

She had just won her 200th career game at the helm of JMU lacrosse on Saturday 11-7 over UConn, but she didn't know all along that gifts were coming with it. She said the father of a former JMU lacrosse captain texted her the night before facing the Huskies, saying something to the effect of, "go get 200."

Klaes' first thought was, "200 what?"

All the while, the Dukes' captains — redshirt senior defender Rachel Matey, redshirt senior midfielder Lizzy Fox, redshirt junior attacker Isabella Peterson and redshirt senior attacker Kacey Knobloch — along with associate head coach Kateri Linville, had been working behind the scenes to make Klaes' Saturday extra special.

Klaes received the game ball and cut the cake after the game, then gave a speech in front of the team's families and her own. Through the pomp, senior attacker Tai Jankowski said Klaes didn't talk about herself or reflect on her six conference championships, 2018 national championship or any of her 200 wins at JMU over 17 seasons. Klaes made it about everyone else: the parents, the players — "she always puts us first," Jankowski said.

"To see that our leaders are willing to go above and beyond like that and organize and orchestrate a moment to anchor this milestone, I think this is what makes our program so special and have that family atmosphere," Klaes said. "Everyone wants to lift each other up."

After playing at JMU from 1994-97, Klaes returned to Harrisonburg to become the head coach in 2007. Since Klaes took over, JMU lacrosse is 200-91.

"She recruits personality and then gets amazing lacrosse players," redshirt senior goalie Kat Buchanan said. "She doesn't want to put anyone in an uncomfortable situation. Whether you're the best player in the country, she really wants you to fit in here and be one of us."

No other former JMU lacrosse coach is within 82 wins of Klaes: Dee McDonough (1980-94)'s 118-113 mark and Jennifer

Ulehla (1995-02) at 90-54 are the next closest. Klaes' win Saturday was also her 250th as a head coach; she went 50-35 at Hofstra from 2002-06.

JMU wasn't a pushover before hiring Klaes, though. It won six CAA championships — three under Ulehla and three more under Kellie Young (2003-06), who took the Dukes to their first-ever NCAA Final Four in 2000.

But under Klaes, the Dukes won their 500th game March 3, 2021 — just the fifth women's lacrosse program to do so at the time — claimed seven CAA titles in 17 years and, as Jankowski said, "JMU put itself in everyone's faces" after capturing the 2018 national title.

Since 2000, ACC schools North Carolina (three titles), Boston College and UVA, academic powers Northwestern (seven) and Princeton (two), along with Maryland (seven), are the only other schools to win a Division I women's lacrosse championship.

"She hates to lose more than she likes to win," Buchanan said. "I think that's why we're so good."

Jankowski noticed as a senior in high school, when the Dukes won the 2018 national title, how powerful Klaes is with her words. Jankowski said JMU's championship hype video embodies who Klaes is — and since then, Jankowski said her favorite moments are in the locker room before games, when music is playing and Klaes is dancing along.

There, Klaes rallies the troops.

"Even if it's just a typical game on a Wednesday," Jankowski said, "it'll be a national championship speech."

Jankowski said she thinks Klaes' passion for JMU — and why she's stayed for 17 years — stems from playing there. As a senior in 1997, Klaes set then-school records in career assists (71), goals by a senior (48) and single-season points (71).

Klaes choked up when talking about why she's stayed at JMU since 2007 instead of jumping ship to coach another program. She said JMU lacrosse is all she knows and coaching is her chance to influence a program she calls "very special."

Klaes said she also wants to stay at JMU because she loves what the area offers outside of lacrosse, namely the food scene in the Shenandoah Valley and skiing and mountain biking at Massanutten. The outside activities

keep her enjoying life, while simultaneously coaching high-level competitive athletes is invigorating, she says.

"I just love that I've been able to do it in my own way at JMU," Klaes said. "I still have a lot left in me ... I think this opportunity to transition us into the new conference [the American Athletic Conference], just, is really exciting to continue to be able to leave our mark."

Some of Klaes' 200 wins blend together and the years get mixed up, she said, but others stick out. The 2015 13-6 CAA championship win over then-No. 4 Towson stands alone, Klaes said, because of the pressure on that year's senior class to leave JMU with a conference title — it would've been the first group under her leadership not to do so. Last year's 13-8 win at then-No. 3 Maryland — JMU's first in 12 tries since 2003 — is notable, she said, because of the grace, poise and polish JMU played with to defeat the Terrapins on their home turf.

"There's been many, many, many, but I find that a lot of times, it's the personalities that I'm remembering, the leadership that I'm remembering," Klaes said. "It's trying to get these girls to leave their legacy on this program because I can't do it without them. And I think every time these girls come in and invest themselves and give of themselves to this program, they do that, and that's why we have the consistency that we have."

Klaes' first win coaching JMU came Feb. 24, 2007, over Georgetown, 14-10. She said, "I expected everything to just happen back then." But Klaes didn't have her recruits in the program to start, and she spent her time getting them to believe in her unified, team-

COACH KLAES 200 WINS			
1971 - 89	BASEBALL	BRAD BABCOCK	558 - 251 - 4
1972 - 85	MEN'S BASKETBALL	LOU CAMPANELLI	238 - 118
1976 - 14	WOMEN'S TENNIS	MARIA MALERBA	439 - 307
1982 - 97	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	SHELIA MOORMAN	302 - 134
1986 - 14	MEN'S SOCCER	TOM MARTIN	359 - 164 - 58
1990 - 17	WOMEN'S SOCCER	DAVID LOMBARDO	337 - 222 - 35
1991 - 99/2014 - PRES	FIELD HOCKEY	CHRISTY MORGAN	226 - 147 - 2
1992 - PRES	MEN'S TENNIS	STEVE SECORD	312 - 322
1998 - 15	BASEBALL	SPANKY MCFARLAND	491 - 483
2002 - 12	SOFTBALL	KATIE FLYNN	314 - 278
2003 - 16	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	KENNY BROOKS	321 - 121
2010 - PRES	VOLLEYBALL	LAUREN STEINBRECHER	241 - 119
2013 - 17	SOFTBALL	MICKEY DEAN	237 - 56
2007 - PRES	LACROSSE	SHELLEY KLAES	200 - 91

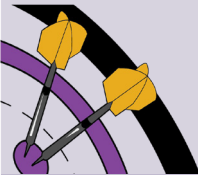
Ben Moulse / *The Breeze*

first philosophy while, at the same time, she said it was hard to trust herself at first. JMU went 25-25 during Klaes' first three years, dipping to a tenure-low 5-11 in 2009. From then on, the Dukes averaged 14 wins per year, excluding the six-game 2020 season.

Now, 17 years after her first win, Klaes said she hasn't had much time to reflect on the 200-win milestone. Her daughter's 11th birthday party kept her busy the following day.

And two days after that, Klaes said, she's focused on High Point, which the Dukes travel to on Feb. 25.

CONTACT Grant Johnson at breezesports@gmail.com and Hayden Hundley at hundleh@dukes.jmu.edu. For more lacrosse coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.



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.

A **"sigh-of-relief"** pat to JMU PD Officer Johnson for jump starting my car Monday night.

From someone who suffered through a series of unfortunate events.

A **"watch-where-you're-going"** dart to the person who backed into my car.

From someone whose car has enough dents.

A **"take-my-money"** pat to the Girl Scouts outside the Union Tuesday.

From a cookie lover who will try not to eat my entire box of Samoas in one sitting.

A **"you-made-my-day"** pat to Tropical Smoothie for giving me free smoothies for being the 100th customer that day.

From someone who needed a pick-me-up.



First Choice, J&L Towing, Simmons Towing and Kar Towing are some of the towing companies in Harrisonburg. Peyton King / The Breeze

Towing woes

Vehicle retrieval fees are excessively high, apartment complexes should expand guest parking



ORIANA LUKAS | opinions with oriana

There’s tuition, meal plans, rent, gas, groceries and extracurricular activities many students must pay for. Depending on the student, tuition itself can range anywhere from around a total of \$53,504 to \$121,864 after four years at JMU according to JMU’s website. Those prices disregard any financial aid or scholarships. Many students who attend JMU are fortunate to be able to afford all of these expenses, but, it’s fair to say that finances are typically tight for college students. Some pick up extra jobs on top of school to manage these expenses. So, does it seem logistically fair to charge these young adults with \$150 towing fees?

The answer should be easy: It’s not.

JMU has a student population of 20,346 undergrads, with 69% of students living off campus. This is approximately 13,848 students. There are many off-campus apartment complexes and houses for rent in Harrisonburg. These options are convenient for students, as they’re relatively affordable and close to campus. Though, there has been a progressing issue of students’ vehicles getting towed at these apartment complexes.

There are various towing companies

that circulate around Harrisonburg and are designated to certain complexes. First Choice, J&L Towing, Simmons Towing and KAR Towing each charge approximately \$80-\$170 for vehicle impoundment. These fees vary depending on the apartments’ policies, days of the week and holidays.

According to the Virginia code 46.2-1233.1, towing companies can charge a maximum of \$150 for initial towing fees, and no more than \$30 for extra fees.

Morgan Jaminson, a junior at JMU, said she was in shock when she came back to an empty spot where her vehicle previously had been. Although she was in a visitor spot, she didn’t know she needed a visitor pass as well — she then had to pay about \$200 to get her car back.

“We went to the game and when we came back my car was gone,” Jaminson said. “I was very frustrated, annoyed and confused.”

To add to the commotion, Jaminson’s friend’s vehicle proceeded to get towed a few minutes after hers.

There are designated visitor spots in each apartment complex, but there aren’t nearly enough, considering the high capacity of students. In each complex there’s typically one or two small areas for visitors to park. With the number of students that reside in

each of these complexes, it makes no sense as to why there are only a few dozen available visitor spots. Jaminson said she believes more spots would be a simple solution to this problem.

Jaminson lived in North 38 and said because of their abundant number of spots, it never became an issue.

“I just think having more available options rather than having just a few for an apartment complex isn’t too much to ask for,” Jaminson said.

With this lack of infrastructure in correctly designing parking lots with enough spots, students are inevitably getting towed because there’s nowhere to park. While that’s a hassle in itself, the cost to retrieve a car is also unreasonable. With towing companies frequently circulating around the parking lots for students’ vehicles, it’s fair to say there’s a growing frustration within the student body. The question is whether anything will be done about it.

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.

Influencer idolization

Emotional attachment to social media personalities causes impaired judgment of their behavior from fans



MARY MABRY | a message from mary



AVA MENONI | an avalanche of opinion

Andrew Tate develops a self-proclaimed “misogynistic” rhetoric in his audience according to BBC. Logan Paul makes millions of dollars even after controversies. Swifties make Taylor Swift a role model for activism.

When people idolize influencers, these contentious situations are the result.

How influencers gain a following

Influencers gain a following strategically. Talent can matter, but in the age of social media, there are other factors that hold a lot of weight with younger audiences.

According to Adobe Express, a software developed by Adobe to make graphics and video stories, there are “9 tested tips to boost your Instagram engagement in 2022.” Tips range from mastering aesthetics to tracking engagement to posting at certain times of the day. They’re meant for anyone trying to gain a following on Instagram, but it’s easy to see these strategies used by professional influencers and celebrities on many different platforms.

For example, Taylor Swift has a brand: She goes through eras, capitalizes on aesthetics and uses “easter eggs” — or hidden messages — to engage her fans. According to the Today Show, Swift keeps her fans on their toes, alluding to unexpected career moves by incorporating these easter eggs in anything from lyrics to outfits.

If fans want to know her next move, they have to be on the pulse — engaged in her every move. These actions aren’t just tactics to keep fans interested and talking, but she also brands herself as an activist.

For example, according to the Chicago Sun-Times, Swift’s music video for “You Need to Calm Down” was an “outwardly LGBTQ-friendly” song, but some saw it as a “fashion statement or marketing ploy.”

Controversy surrounded this video release, as Swift was accused of queerbaiting, comparing her online hate to hate crimes, misrepresenting LGBTQ protesters, and more.

Whether Swift actually takes action on certain issues or supports marginalized demographics different from her is up to interpretation. But, with or without action, the “activist” label appeals to a large audience of young listeners regardless of whether a celebrity actually helps the cause.

Through branding tactics like these, fans

become emotionally attached to influencers, making it difficult to distinguish if celebrities are genuine or if every move is carefully calculated.

When problems arise: In controversy

When influencers are idolized, problems arise. One result can be fans’ clouded judgment, especially in times of conflict. When people continue to follow influencers through controversy, the influencers get opportunities that — usually — they don’t deserve.

Take, for example, Logan Paul — an influencer who has been “canceled” many times.

According to Business Insider, Paul recorded a dead body in Japan’s “suicide forest” in 2017. Soon after, he released a video of him taser-ing dead rats, and later in his podcast “Impaulsive,” he said he was “going gay” for a month. These are only a few of Paul’s controversies.

However, Paul is still successful today. According to Forbes, he made \$18 million in 2021, recently signed a multi-year contract with WWE and has four million podcast subscribers and 23.5 million YouTube subscribers.

Paul has been in a lot of controversies, but he still has loyal fans who continue to support him through views and engagement, providing him with many opportunities. So, even though he’s widely seen as a morally corrupt individual, he’s still rich and successful.

This is a prime example of fans following a problematic individual even when they’re exposed, further allowing them to be successful.

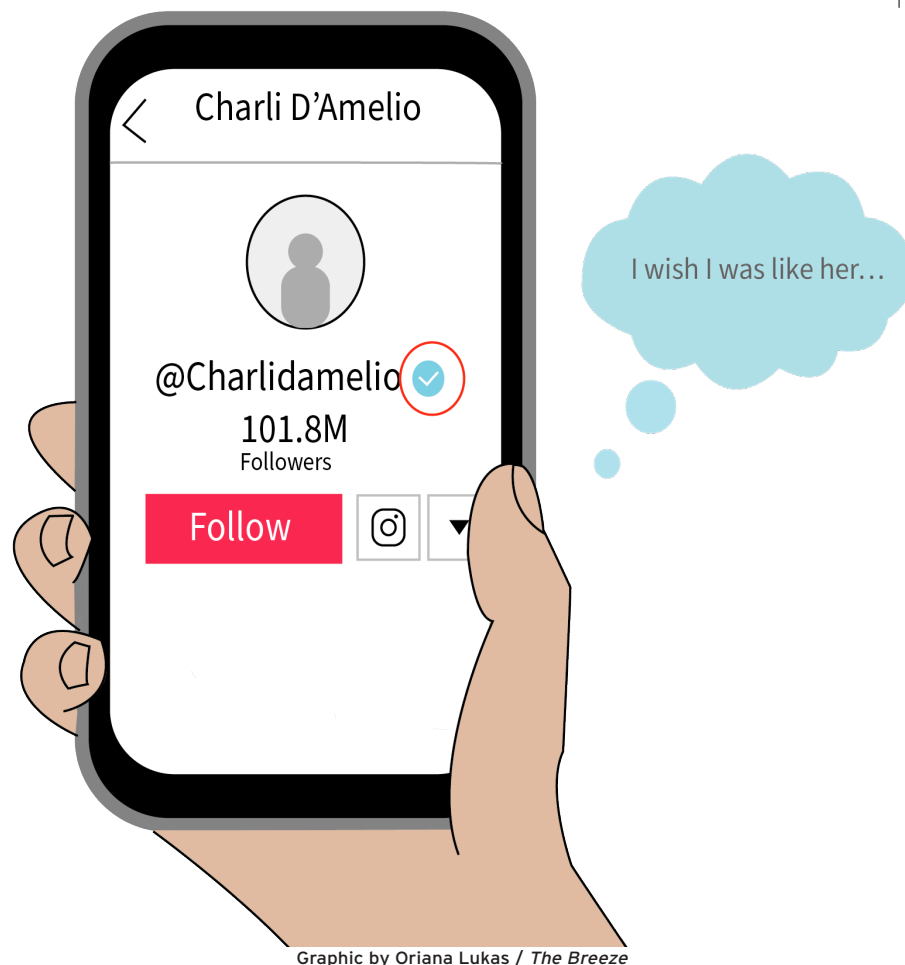
Fans should be more aware of who they’re supporting and recognize when their judgment is clouded. In doing this, influencers that cause harm through their platform will be stripped of their power.

When problems arise: Social and moral development

When consuming so much media from an influencer, a strong connection is built. Followers idolize these creators as they would role models in real life, which can corrupt social development and shift core values. Andrew Tate is an influencer who has this effect on his fans.

Originally a kickboxer, Tate became popular after appearing on the 18th season of Big Brother and has had a growing platform ever since, now a content creator on YouTube and TikTok.

Tate’s content is advertised through his subscription service, Hustler’s University, to young men who wanted to become successful. He influenced 127,000 subscribers, who idolized his money and his strong, masculine energy.



Graphic by Oriana Lukas / The Breeze

His podcast, “Tate Speech,” has also had a horrible influence on young men. Claiming to help men, Tate would give misogynistic advice to his listeners according to BBC. For example, he said women were purely a status symbol and that depression isn’t real. He would describe his own personal sexist anecdotes and follow them with bold, controversial statements.

But even after being called out for his various sexist comments, Tate remained firm in his beliefs, claiming he doesn’t make mistakes.

Tate encouraged his viewers to learn from his experiences and apply his ideas to their own lives, who then trusted and identified with Tate because they idolized him. After years of solidifying core values, these young men abandoned them to support Tate calling them their “god.”

In 2022, Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and YouTube have removed his content from their platforms due to violations of their policies.

According to the Washington Post, Tate has been arrested for rape allegations and has been suspected of running a human trafficking ring. Recently the Romanian court has extended his detention for the third time as reported by The Guardian.

When problems arise: Treatment of others

Emotional attachment to influencers and celebrities can also be harmful because it creates rivalries between fans. Some fans are willing to commit acts of violence, cyberbully and verbally and digitally harass people to protect their idols.

An example of this is when Selena Gomez fans began harassing Justin Bieber’s wife, Hailey Baldwin. Gomez and Justin started dating back in 2011, on and off for years. Fans became obsessed with the couple.

So when Bieber and Baldwin started dating in 2016, some fans were distraught. After their marriage was covered by news outlets, Gomez fans made up rumors that Bieber cheated on Gomez with Baldwin, calling Baldwin names like “homewrecker” in her Instagram comments. Baldwin had to beg commenters to “leave her alone” in a TikTok response.

There was only a reduction in the harassment when Gomez made a statement to her fans, saying “No one ever should be spoken to in a manner that I’ve seen.”

What can we do about it?

Benjamin Blankenship, a psychology professor at JMU, offered a psychological perspective on this topic.

Being a “fan” in modern-day culture shapes

identity, he said. Often, people don’t just appreciate someone’s content, but they label themselves as a follower or subscriber. By “taking on these identities,” Blankenship said, you “embed that as a part of who you are.”

Blankenship also said associating with other individuals or groups of people helps us understand who we are and “communicate to others who we are.”

However, when groups of people come together under these social identities, groupthink is likely to occur. According to SimplyPsychology, groupthink can be a dangerous way of united thinking that can lead to unwise or unrealistic decisions.

This can be caused by a lack of diversity in groups and lack of outside perspectives, and it can lead people to obey authority without question.

So, humans are not only inclined to respect influencers, but they actually take on that liking as a part of who they are, which influences their actions.

When discussing these actions, Blankenship introduced the term “prestige bias,” meaning if an individual has prestige or a following, humans are more likely to acknowledge and agree with their opinion. This can lead people astray, believing false truths or misinformation.

This idea explains why companies pay celebrities and influencers to endorse their products. Even though the celebrity has no expertise in the area, people are willing to purchase the product simply because it was recommended by a famous person. Blankenship said people should believe experts instead.

People should be aware of who they’re listening to and keep prestige bias in check, whether that’s during celebrity controversy, developing core values, interacting with other people, or simply choosing to follow someone.

Another way someone can combat the effects of influencer idolization is to diversify who they follow. Blankenship said that by listening to both those who you agree with and those who you don’t agree with, you can truly develop what you believe — and this truth will most likely be in the middle somewhere.

Intense attachment to influencers is problematic. Don’t let who you follow determine who you are and how you navigate society.

CONTACT Ava Menoni at menoniap@dukes.jmu.edu and Mary Mabry at mabrymm@dukes.jmu.edu. For more editorials regarding the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the opinion desk on Instagram and Twitter @Breeze_Opinion.

MUSIC'S PLACE IN HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

I write as a concerned musician, university professor and member of the Jewish community to express my opposition to some of the fallacious and self-serving criticism leveled upon the organizers of JMU's Holocaust Remembrance event and at Provost Coltman in particular.

The preposterous suggestion by Rabbi Kurtz-Lendner that the "program...looks like...an opportunity for celebration," or the assertion by Dr. Hametz that "Biblically we don't use instrumental music, as Jews," or her subsequent indication that a musical interlude is analogous to church worship, are not only reductive of a Jewish community and traditions which are, thankfully, far more diverse than these closed-minded thinkers. Rather, they fly in the face not only of established practice across the U.S. and the world but of my own lived experience as a Jewish professional musician who has devoted much of my career to advocating for and disseminating the music of the Shoah.

I have been invited — both alongside my Jewish colleagues of the Amernet String Quartet and in my capacity as artistic director of an ensemble called Shir Ami, a name bestowed upon us by the clergy of the congregation where I was raised in suburban Philadelphia — to give performances in myriad situations like the one proposed at JMU. We've commemorated Yom HaShoah, Kristallnacht, and International Holocaust Remembrance Day in half a dozen countries. We've appeared as guests of the Budapest Jewish Arts Festival,

run by deeply observant Jews, in the rubble of the old Rombach shul; in that city's Holocaust Museum, itself a former synagogue; in the only central Viennese temple to survive the war unscathed (a conservative congregation to boot!), and at countless other institutions. Naturally then, while the critics of JMU's event rather arrogantly represent themselves as spokespeople for all Jews and thus paint us as a monolith, the diaspora is thankfully quite a lot more varied.

And this is all of course just a living coda to one of the primary reasons for presenting performances at these events: the music itself! Had any of these vociferous critics invested a modicum of energy in learning about the field, they'd have discovered that for the vast array of Jewish musicians interned at Terezin or in the death camps, art was tantamount to life itself. Hundreds of composers we now know, and likely many more we'll never discover, wrote major works while in these places as a means of sustaining their humanity and perhaps, cognizant of the fate which awaited them, leaving a legacy. Wherever possible, they maintained regular concert series of their own new compositions as well as the works of Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and more. What better way to honor the oeuvre of Pavel Haas, Gideon Klein, Hans Krasa, Viktor Ullmann and so many others who created seminal pieces of music under deplorable conditions than to perform it for audiences keen to actively remember.

What's perhaps worse, though, than the

Letter to the Editor

absurd argument of these self-appointed Jewish thought police is their implied ad hominem attack on Provost Coltman. I have had the pleasure of knowing her for more than a decade, in which capacity we have of course shared the stage dozens of times both in the U.S. and in Israel. But beyond Heather's obvious commitment as a musician, her bonafides as a champion of diverse opinion are unassailable. She has spent much of her own career and professional capital uplifting and amplifying the voices of people of color, women, the LGBTQ+ community, those who experience religious persecution and so many more. And that doesn't even encompass the quiet work she has done in sheltering refugees and leveraging her own resources to assist anyone needing a helping hand. But in today's climate of "whataboutism," it's all too

easy for these critics to lob grenades at Provost Coltman as a totem of all administrators.

Let us hope that in the future, these academic militants may remember that old adage of not cutting off their noses to spite their faces!

Sincerely,
Jason Calloway

Jason Calloway is a associate teaching professor at Florida International University and a cellist for the Amernet String Quartet.



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This week in JMU history...



On Dec. 2, 1922, The Breeze was born. Since then, it's been the indispensable source of news for the JMU and Harrisonburg communities for 100 years. The Breeze is celebrating its centennial this semester, so we're traveling back in time.

Each week, The Breeze takes a look back on historic moments in JMU and Breeze history by publishing the cover from the same publication day, just years in the past.

photo by Joe Schneckenger

The Breeze

Vol. 56

Friday, February 23, 1979

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia

No. 38.

Open boards of visitors bill passes House unanimously

By DWAYNE YANCEY

After languishing in committee for nearly a month, a bill opening meetings of state college boards of visitors to the public unanimously passed the House of Delegates Wednesday.

The House and Senate had earlier passed different versions of the bill. A conference committee ironed out differences in the two versions and sent the bill back to both houses Tuesday.

The Senate was scheduled to take up the bill Thursday. It originally approved the measure 20-19.

In passing the bill, the House approved the conference committee's decision to accept one of two Senate amendments.

The Senate had added an amendment allowing boards of visitors to meet in private when discussing disciplinary action against students or

when considering donations from private individuals who wish to remain anonymous.

The Freedom of Information Act already allows public agencies to meet behind closed doors when discussing certain legal and personnel matters.

The conference committee deleted an unrelated Senate amendment barring the

release of high school competency tests. That provision was made into a separate bill, which the House passed Monday.

The boards of visitors bill, sponsored by Del. A. R. "Pete" Giesen (R-Staunton), was opposed chiefly by college boards of visitors.

"Although if given a choice, boards of visitors would prefer to meet in private," according to Dr. Ray Sonner, vice president for university relations at James Madison University, the Senate amendment "removes the major concerns that most of the universities had."

If approved by the senate, the bill would go to Governor John Dalton. Dalton supported moves to open boards of visitors meetings during his campaign but has thus far refused to indicate whether he would sign the Giesen bill.



Senate increases JMU funds

By DWAYNE YANCEY

The Virginia Senate included over \$3 million for construction projects at James Madison University in the state budget it approved Wednesday.

The budget now goes back to the House of Delegates, where it faces almost certain rejection. A conference committee is likely to be

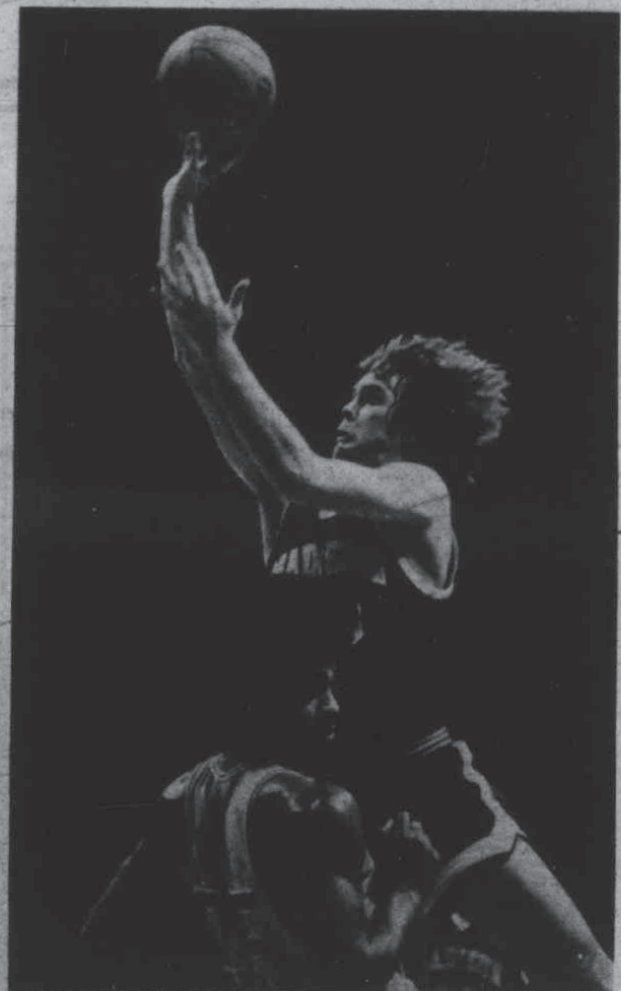
approved by the House and Senate.

The House passed a budget that includes \$400,000 for a library addition at JMU.

The Senate, heeding pleas by university officials, increased the library appropriation to \$771,000. It also approved issuing revenue bonds that include \$1.6 million for a 136-bed dorm and \$1

The entire budget bill, amounting to \$135 million, passed the Senate 37-3. That figure includes \$317 in revenue bonds for construction projects at various state colleges that the House rejected as not essential at this time.

The House may vote on the budget by Friday, according to Dr. Ray Sonner. JMU's



VCU tops Dukes

JMU'S ROGER HUGHETT drives for the basket against Virginia Commonwealth University Wednesday night. The Dukes, however, couldn't generate enough offense in the second half and were defeated by the Rams, 65-56. Steve Stielper led all scorers with 30 points. Lorenza Watson, given a "Night" by the City of Richmond, was awesome in the first half and finished with 16 points, nine rebounds and seven blocks. See story on page 12.



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Thursday, February 23, 2023

FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 20, 2023

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

1 Sport played on horseback
5 Make fun of
9 Goes up
14 Bibliography abbreviation
15 Furniture chain that also sells lingonberry preserves
16 Feeling of existential boredom
17 *Sincere intention to be fair
20 Sight or smell
21 Granny
22 Some Wall St. deals
23 Joan of ____: French heroine
25 Pampering place
27 *One who can't help but see the bright side
36 Assignment for a swimmer or a bowler
37 Ore deposit
38 Beat
39 Chicago winter hrs.
40 Central Pennsylvania city
42 Luv
43 Go-to crew
45 Salad fish
46 Stud farm stud
47 *Private fashion consultant
50 Sunflower St. school
51 ____pitch softball
52 See 64-Down
55 Biblical ark builder
59 Songs for two
63 Reason for a courtroom objection, and what the start of the answer to each starred clue has
66 Silly activity
67 Red gemstone
68 Writer Bombeck
69 "Let's Make a Deal" host Brady
70 Unworried state
71 "Whoa, trippy!"

DOWN

1 Green animals in Angry Birds
2 Slender woodwind
3 Zebra hunter
4 "There's a nonzero chance ..."
5 Coastal inlet
6 Comparable (to)
7 Oscar winner Catherine ____-Jones
8 Journalist Paula
9 NFL official
10 Fill with passion
11 ____ appeal
12 Currency named for a continent
13 Follows an obedience school command
18 Houseplant with fronds
19 Sunup direction
24 Match a bet, in poker
26 Bread served with hummus
27 Rock formation in Yosemite, familiarly
28 Have a spoonful, say
29 "The door's open!"
30 Led Zeppelin's "Whole ____ Love"
31 Near-beer name
32 Lowly workers
33 Reply to "Ya dig?"
34 18-Down seed
35 Copier cartridge
40 Songwriter Tori
41 Slangy turn downs
44 Welcomed at the door
46 Mouthed (off)
48 Former Georgia senator Sam
49 Bygone GM line
52 Imperfection
53 "Chocolat" actress Olin
54 Like Cheerios
56 Mythical menace
57 Teal shade
58 Busy airports
60 Ireland, to the Irish
61 Heavy book
62 Simple fastener
64 With 52-Across, floating Arctic sheet
65 Potato spot

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By Bruce Venzke 2/20/23



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		2				3		
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	9				2		6	1

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CITY OF HARRISONBURG JOBS

Career Opportunity - Transit Bus Operator

Are you seeking a challenging yet rewarding full-time, benefits-eligible position that allows you to utilize your customer service and driving skills? If so, the Department of Public Transportation's Transit Bus Operator positions may be the right opportunity for you! Find out more/apply online: <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/employment>. EOE.

Career Opportunity - Deputy Fire Chief of Operations

The City of Harrisonburg Fire Department is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Deputy Fire Chief of Operations. The ideal candidate is a dynamic, forward-thinking, experienced professional that will plan, supervise, direct, and coordinate the operations of the department. Find out more / apply online: <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/employment>. EOE.

Seasonal Job Opportunity - Park Grounds Maintenance Laborer

Are you looking for a seasonal job that allows you to work primarily outdoors and utilize your maintenance skills to upkeep various park grounds? If so, apply to the City of Harrisonburg's seasonal Park Grounds Maintenance Laborer position! Find out more/apply online: <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/employment>. EOE.

Job Opportunity - Water Service Technician

Do you want a part-time job that helps provide a meaningful service to the community through in-field customer service and related work? If so, the Public Utilities Department's Water Service Technician may be the right job for you! Find out more/apply online: <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/employment>. EOE.

Job Opportunity - Recreation Aide (Youth Services)

Do you want to have fun at work while also providing a safe and engaging environment for youth? If so, the City of Harrisonburg's Recreation Aide - Youth Services position may be the right job for you! Seasonal & Part-Time Opportunities Available! Find out more/apply online: <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/employment>. EOE.

Career Opportunity - Technician II (Grounds Maintenance)

Do you want to use your technical skills to enhance the public's quality of life by developing/maintaining open spaces/facilities for the use/enjoyment by the public? If so, the Parks and Recreation Department's Technician II - Grounds Maintenance position may be the right career for you! Find out more/apply: <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/employment>. EOE.

MORE CITY OF HARRISONBURG JOBS

Job Opportunity - Customer Service Specialist (Year-Round)

Do you want to utilize your customer service skills/abilities to make a positive impact on citizens and guests visiting Parks and Recreation facilities? If so, the City of Harrisonburg's Parks and Recreation Department's Customer Service Specialist position may be the right career for you! Find out more/apply online: <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/employment>. EOE.

Career Opportunity - Van/Car Driver

Do you have an excellent driving record and enjoy driving? If so, apply to become a Van/Car Driver in the Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation and get paid for doing what you love! (A CDL is not required for this position.) Find out more/apply online: <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/employment>. EOE.

Career Opportunity - Technology Support Specialist

Do you want to make a difference in the community by leveraging technology that will effectively serve internal and external customers? If so, the City of Harrisonburg's Technology Support Specialist position may be a great fit for you! Find out more/apply online: <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/employment>. EOE.

MORE CITY OF HARRISONBURG JOBS

Seasonal Job Opportunity - Athletic Fields Grounds Crew Worker

Are you looking for a seasonal job that allows you to work primarily outdoors and utilize your maintenance skills to upkeep the City's various athletic fields? If so, apply to the City of Harrisonburg's seasonal Athletic Fields Grounds Crew Worker position! Find out more/apply online: <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/employment>. EOE.

Seasonal Job Opportunity - Public Utilities Trainee

Do you want a part-time job that allows you to work outside while making a direct impact in the local community? If so, consider applying for the Public Utilities Trainee position! Multiple opportunities available in various project areas. Find out more/apply online: <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/employment>. EOE.

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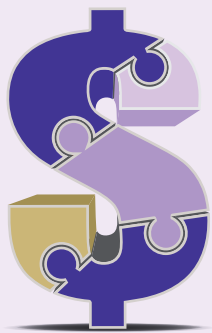
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