

The Breeze

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Monday, February 3, 2014

Marriage benefits called into question

Faculty Senate supports benefits for same-sex partnerships; invites Alger to next month's meeting

By IJ CHAN
The Breeze

Virginia state law prevents those in same-sex domestic partnerships to have the same benefits as heterosexual couples, but some JMU faculty and staff don't see that as an acceptable answer.

At the December Faculty Senate meeting the senate voted unanimously with one abstention to approve a resolution that advocates for JMU to extend work benefits to all employees in same-sex domestic partnerships.

The approval was met with a round of applause from the senators.

Assistant professor of political science Rob Alexander isn't a member of the Faculty Senate, but was present at the December meeting.

Alexander, who identifies as gay, said it was reassuring that the senators came to such a quick decision, and that the issue of same-sex domestic partner benefits didn't cause any conflict or debate within the group.

"I think anyone who finds themselves in the minority group ... it just feels good when a group of people, who may not be part of your minority group, affirms you," he said.

Senior director of communications and

university spokesperson Don Egle said that because Virginia doesn't recognize same-sex marriages as legal, JMU, as a state institution, can't change its policy regarding benefits.

"The agencies [JMU] of the Commonwealth have no authority to grant same-sex domestic partners the same benefits as those granted to spouses of employees, as defined by the statutes and constitution," Egle said.

Egle said JMU is committed to certain values, such as "integrity, mutual respect, diversity and inclusion," and will continue to pay attention to these issues and more on a national level.

At the most recent Faculty Senate meeting last Thursday, philosophy professor and Faculty Senate member Mark Piper presented a resolution that invites President Jon Alger to attend the next senate meeting on Feb. 27.

The senate members approved the resolution and gathered a list of possible topics they wanted to discuss with Alger. The issue of same-sex domestic partner benefits was one of the first on the list.

Communication sciences and disorders professor Rory DePaolis suggested that JMU take a more active role on the

see **LGBT**, page 4



LAUREN GORDON / THE BREEZE

»» Wingin' in the Super Bowl

A table of JMU students and alumni enjoy wings and drinks while they cheer on their favorite team in the Super Bowl at Quaker Steak & Lube last night. The restaurant, along with other wing joints in Harrisonburg, were busy all day with students and locals picking up wings for their parties. The Denver Broncos took on the Seattle Seahawks at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey for Super Bowl XLVIII.

'We beat ourselves'

JMU falls 81-79 to William & Mary in last-minute loss



MATT SCHMACHTENBERG / THE BREEZE

Sophomore guard Ron Curry scored 11 points and had nine rebounds in JMU's loss to William & Mary yesterday.

By STEPHEN PROFFITT
The Breeze

JMU dropped a rollercoaster of a game to the College of William & Mary, 81-79 Sunday at home.

Head coach Matt Brady predicted that his team probably would've been in this type of game two weeks ago. Sunday, the Dukes got the shot they wanted but it just didn't go in.

"I'm OK with an experienced, veteran team that's really playing with purpose, coming in and nipping us at the end there," Brady said. "I just hope we learn a lesson."

With three seconds left, and JMU down four, freshman guard Ron Curry was fouled on a three-point shot attempt. He went to the line, drained the first two and the Dukes were forced to miss the third in an attempt to grab an offensive rebound and get up a shot to tie or win.

Redshirt senior forward Andrey Semenov crashed the glass as Curry missed the shot to the left. He grabbed the ball and put up an off-balance shot from about eight feet to the side of the basket that went just short as the buzzer went off.

"I didn't know what I was thinking at

see **BASKETBALL**, page 11

Man's best friend

Freshman Nathan Selove has special bond with his disability dog Sylvia



HOLLY WARFIELD / THE BREEZE

Sylvia, an autism service dog, has helped Nathan Selove cope with his Asperger's syndrome since he was in seventh grade.

By LAUREN HUNT
The Breeze

The Quad is the land of the dogs when it's warm. Most people let you pet and sometimes even pick up and snuggle their puppies. But there's one dog out all year round that you can't pet — she's on the clock. Her name is Sylvia and she's an autism service dog.

Nathan Selove, a freshman communication studies and theatre double major, was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, a form of high-functioning autism, at the age of 9. The summer before Selove started seventh grade he got Sylvia from Susquehanna Service Dogs in Harrisburg, Pa.

"She helps me out through deep pressure therapy — basically if I'm starting an 'aspy-meltdown,' she'll, like, get on my lap and the pressure helps to soothe me and calm me down," Selove said. "Sometimes if I'm in a crowd, she'll actually block people. I'll get to a wall and she'll stand in front of me to block them."

Selove was severely bullied in elementary school and his parents feared that it would be worse in middle school, and it was. When Selove announced to his class that he would not be in school for the last week of the sixth grade to train with Sylvia, his class cheered.

"The bullying was really, really bad before I had her. It started when I was in the fourth grade and it just got worse and worse," Selove said. "And then, here comes Sylvia and suddenly everyone realizes, 'Oh, maybe we shouldn't have been so hard on Nathan. Maybe he can't help it.'"

But bullying was not the only problem Selove and his family would face. Getting Sylvia into middle school with him proved to be another challenge.

The school board argued that the Americans with Disabilities Act did not apply to Selove. Eventually the board presented Selove and his family with a contract stating that he could bring Sylvia to school but she could not ride the bus, and the board reserved the right to remove Sylvia at any time for any reason.

Selove's family was not thrilled with the contract but signed under duress so that Selove could return to school with Sylvia.

Then, in 2008, Virginia Delegate Mark Cole wrote a bill requiring schools to accommodate service dogs and it passed unanimously in the state legislature as well as in every committee it was sent to. It was also signed by then-Governor Tim Kaine.

Selove's family then demanded that the contract be annulled, and it was.

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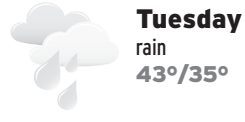
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The Breeze

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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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The Buzz

Discuss this week's burning topics with us! Send us your responses @TheBreezeJMU or on our Facebook.

Some students took advantage of the cold weather and played ice hockey on the East Campus retention pond.

But now they might be facing possible action from Judicial Affairs. What do you think of this?

I'm glad this is a bigger concern than crime off campus...

Justin Porter | via Facebook

If they don't want hockey on the ponds...put a sign up stating so...then maybe judicial can have a say

Sarah DeFelice | via Facebook

It's more the fact that we do not live in an area where we get enough freezing temperatures for the ice on bodies of water to be safe to stand on. What if he had fallen through the ice and had to be rescued, or had died. He could have potentially put the lives of rescuers at risk. They shouldn't have to post signs that say "hey, don't walk out on the frozen pond", in this area of the nation it should be common sense that it's not safe.

Lorrie Coffey Howard | via Facebook

IT IS A TWO FOOT DEEP DRAINAGE POND

Alex Parker | via Facebook

If he fell through the ice then he or his family would have been responsible to cover the cost of rescue. Unless there are signs stating that the pond should not be entered, how about the school just say "Don't do that again" and put out a statement to students that entering frozen bodies of water is dangerous and students will be held accountable. Don't shaft this kid for wanting to play hockey though, that just isn't right.

Andrew Edwards | via Facebook

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- NetZero and AOL
- Winter precipitation
- "Poison" plant
- NBAer O'Neal
- Classic film character whose last word was "Rosebud"
- "The Devil Wears ___"
- Linus' trademark in "Peanuts" comics
- Bone: Pref.
- U-shaped river bend
- USN rank
- NYC dance troupe
- Daunting duty
- 1959 Hudson/Day film
- Emulated Michael Phelps
- School subj. with a lab
- Link with
- Stable newborns
- Chatter
- Mistaken
- Wine, on le menu
- Increasing in vol., musically
- ___ firma
- Decline
- Rope material
- Song publisher's output
- Othello's confidant
- Barnyard clucker
- Former Texas governor Richards
- Church keyboard
- Say
- Waistline concern
- Without a break
- "Not a problem"
- Sky bear
- Fizzy fountain drinks
- Lowly laborer
- CPR pros

DOWN

- "That ___ last week!"
- Females
- War-ending agreement
- Rat on the gang
- Hit the slopes
- Belg.-based peacekeeping gp.
- Black stone
- Jack who played Sgt. Joe Friday
- Breed, as salmon
- Keats' Grecian vase
- Disturbs the status quo
- Port in Yemen
- Litter box users
- Like some high-tech machines
- Search (for)
- Bed with a mate
- GI show gp.
- TV show about a consultant thought to have ESP
- "As if ___!"
- Having similar opinions
- Canines and molars
- "But only God can make ___": Kilmer

By Peter Schaefer

Thursday's puzzle solved

D	A	B	T	A	B	S	T	H	R	A	S	H
E	D	U	O	M	I	T	A	R	E	T	H	A
B	U	M	A	R	I	D	E	L	E	A	S	E
R	E	P	L	Y	A	W	E	P	E	A	S	
A	L	E	E	P	O	L	E	S	A	P	A	R
	D	R	I	E	R	B	E	T	E			
A	G	O	R	E	N	U		R	A	J	A	H
L	I	F	T	O	N	E	S	S	P	I	R	I
E	L	F	I	N		B	L	E	U	M	E	T
	R	O	O	K		O	O	M	P	H		
C	A	P	A	N	D	G	O	W	N	R	E	A
S	C	A	M	E	B	B		D	O	N	N	A
P	U	P	I	L	S		A	P	R	E	S	S
A	T	E	S	T		M	O	O	N	O	L	D
N	E	R	U	D	A		A	X	I	S	N	E

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- 38 Case of false incrimination
- 41 Surg. branch
- 44 Restful retreat
- 48 Achy
- 49 False
- 51 Olympians' dreams
- 53 "Famous" cookie guy
- 54 Chile boy
- 56 Surprised sound
- 57 Fluish feeling
- 58 Wolfe of detective fiction
- 60 Time in office
- 61 Sunrise direction
- 62 Nutritional stds.
- 64 Forensic ID
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WORLD NEWS

Syria talks end with hope, negotiations to continue

Los Angeles Times

BEIRUT — Long-anticipated Syrian peace talks adjourned Friday in Switzerland without a major breakthrough but with muted optimism that a negotiation process had finally been launched after nearly three years of civil war.

After almost a week of face-to-face talks between Syrian government officials and members of the U.S.-backed opposition bloc, both sides agreed to meet again within two weeks, said Lakhdar Brahimi, the chief United Nations mediator.

"Progress is very slow indeed," Brahimi told reporters in Geneva. "This is a very modest beginning. But it is a beginning on which we can build."

The chief Syrian negotiator, Foreign Minister Walid Moallem, said at a news conference that the government would decide whether to participate in more talks after consultations in Damascus,

the Syrian capital, with President Bashar Assad and other officials.

Although frustrated by the talks, known as Geneva II, Syrian officials were widely expected to return for another round, if largely because of pressure from Damascus' key ally, Russia. Moscow worked closely for months with Washington to ensure that this week's Syrian peace conference in Switzerland took place.

Intense international pressure finally brought both sides to the bargaining table, despite deep disagreements between the two camps and a split in the fractious opposition about the utility of the talks. Neither side wants to be blamed for the collapse of the nascent process that appears to be the only hope, however faint, of ending the fighting.

China's changes could affect world

McClatchey Foreign Staff

BEIJING — Countries that supply China with raw materials got a taste in January of what the future holds as the world's second-largest economy prepares to restructure itself and dampen its mega-growth of the last two decades.

Rattled investors engaged in a massive sell-off of stocks and currencies from so-called emerging markets, hammering countries from Brazil to South Africa that have profited from mining exports to China.

This won't be the last time the world's markets react — or overreact — to what some call China's "rebalancing." China is just getting started on boosting the domestic economy and scaling back the kinds of resource-intensive industries that have made it the world's manufacturing giant. Michael Pettis, a professor of finance at Peking University, said China's transition would harm numerous developing countries, particularly those that had invested heavily in exporting iron and other metals to China.

"There is no way around it," said Pettis, who's also a senior associate in the Asia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "If you are Brazil, Peru or Chile and you made a big bet on (metal) commodity prices, you are going to be very disappointed." "We all knew that China's growth rate had to slow. We all knew that the growth rates of the past 30 years were unsustainable," said Jock O'Connell, a California-based trade economist. "Now, apparently, slower growth in China has investment analysts on Wall Street sounding a trifle hysterical."

Ukrain president takes leave during conflicts

Los Angeles Times

KIEV — Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich has taken a sick leave amid the nation's political crisis.

"Ukraine's president is on a sick leave in connection with an acute respiratory disease accompanied by high fever," Alexander Orda, the presidential staff's deputy health chief, said in a statement posted on Thursday morning.

This came a day after Yanukovich compelled parliament to sign a conditional amnesty for more than 100 detained participants in protests that started when Yanukovich refrained from signing an association and trade deal with the European Union.

The protests were predominantly peaceful until mid-January, when Yanukovich endorsed a number of controversial laws that set off a fierce confrontation between thousands of protesters and riot police in central Kiev.

Compiled from McClatchy-Tribune wire services

NATION NEWS

"Her" and "Phillips" win top Writers' Guild awards

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The Writers Guild of America honored Spike Jonze for his future-set love story "Her" with its award for original screenplay and Billy Ray for "Captain Phillips," the true story of a hijacking at sea, for adapted screenplay on Saturday night. The awards were announced during simultaneous ceremonies in Los Angeles and New York.

The original screenplay category matched up five-for-five in nominations with the Academy Awards, perhaps tipping the hand of what awards-watchers may expect to see at the Oscars in a few weeks.

Those other nominees were "American Hustle," written by Eric Warren Singer and David O. Russell; "Blue Jasmine," written by Woody Allen; "Dallas Buyers Club," written by Craig Borten and Melissa Wallack; and "Nebraska," written by Bob Nelson.

Although many eyes are on the WGA's film categories in search of clues to how the upcoming Oscars might go, the group also recognized television writing Saturday night. "Breaking Bad" won in the drama category, and "Veep" won for comedy.

Egypt's Morsi back on trial for 2012 protester deaths

Los Angeles Times

CAIRO — Deposed Islamist President Mohamed Morsi was back in court again Saturday, on trial for inciting murder.

Morsi, who has been jailed since an army-led coup against him on July 3, faces four separate court proceedings on a number of charges. Several of them carry the death penalty.

This case began in November and was adjourned to Jan. 8 after a brief, chaotic hearing during which Morsi and his co-defendants shouted down the judge. The Jan. 8 session was held without the ex-president present;

authorities said bad weather had prevented a helicopter flight from his high-security prison.

During a session of a separate trial Tuesday, on charges of orchestrating a prison break, Morsi was confined to a soundproofed glassed-in cage, able to hear the proceedings but to speak only when a microphone was activated. State television showed clips of him shouting ineffectually inside the cage.

In the case being heard Saturday, Morsi was on trial with 14 co-defendants. They are accused in the deaths of protesters outside the presidential palace in December 2012, when Morsi was president.

Obama hints at immigration reform

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — In a potential breakthrough on immigration reform, President Barack Obama on Friday signaled a surprising openness to a new Republican proposal that does not include a special pathway to citizenship for the estimated 11 million people who are in the country illegally.

The comments by the president, who previously

insisted on a special citizenship route, raised hopes for a bipartisan compromise on immigration during an election year that is otherwise likely to be short on legislative achievements.

But it remained unclear whether other Democrats and labor groups who have advocated changing the nation's immigration laws would follow the president's lead. And a growing number of Republicans remain wary of tackling any sort of immigration reform bill this year, fearing that it will further divide the GOP before the mid-term election in November.

Obama's comments to CNN and during a Google Plus online chat came after Republicans released a proposal Thursday that would offer legal status to immigrants, but contained no special citizenship process except for children brought here illegally by their parents. Republican support for legalization was itself considered a breakthrough.

Previously, Obama had signaled that he would only support a reform bill modeled on a bipartisan Senate bill passed last year, which offered a 13-year path for immigrants to obtain citizenship. The bill stalled in the House.

Compiled from McClatchy-Tribune wire services

Politically correct

Students enjoy practical learning experiences made possible by the JMU Washington Semester program



COURTESY OF TWITTER

In addition to attending class, students in the JMU Washington Semester program go on different outings to museums and landmarks in Washington D.C., as well as intern at various places.

By **SAMANTHA ELLIS**
contributing writer

The average student who studies abroad is usually studying in a far-off and extra exotic location. However, a small niche of JMU students have found that they can now have this experience just two hours from campus in the concrete jungle that is Washington, D.C.

The program, which began in 1997, combines academics with internships in the students' desired field.

"Our primary goal is to get students fully emerged in the work. It's no secret that the job market is tough," David Jones, a political science professor and professor in residence for the JMU Washington Semester program, said. "And this gives students a head start by getting them professional experience."

Last semester, the program received about 50 applications. Currently, there are 16 students participating in the D.C. semester abroad. The program accepts all majors, though most are political science or international affairs. However, there are always a few outside majors according to Jones.

"Even though this seems like it isn't that far from JMU, it really truly is a study abroad experience," said junior

communication studies and justice studies double major Natalie Lester. "You're living and working in a completely different cultural area."

Lester and other program participants take classes and are working in internships in places throughout the city like the Environmental Protection Agency, Capitol Hill and the Wilson Center. Lester interns at Community Family Life Services, a nonprofit organization that helps homeless and low-income families.

"Our primary goal is to get students fully emerged in the work. It's no secret that the job market is tough."

David Jones
political science professor and professor in residence for the JMU Semester in Washington program

At her internship, Lester said she helps with the organizations different programs like food and clothing distribution,

transitional housing and mentoring.

Students live and take classes out of a building in Woodley Park, a neighborhood located in the heart of the city. It's only blocks away from the Metro and the Smithsonian's National Zoo.

"It's cool to be in the same space with people who have the same passions as you," Lester said. "It's really cool to live in a suite where you can have conversations with people about public policy and stuff — it's just a really cool learning environment inside the classroom and out."

Lester said she and the other students are taking two classes at in D.C. through the program — one about civil wars and the other about transitioning from war to peace.

The program even has its own Twitter feed, where students can share their experiences with the program.

"Students will talk about the program and academics, but they mainly like to tweet about the exciting things they've gotten to do in the city," Jones said. "We have organized trips to places like the Kennedy, Ford Theater and the Capitol. But most of what students do is on their own. Ice skating, museums and the National Cathedral. There's a lot that can be enjoyed in the city for free."

see DC, page 4

Remembering a visionary

Faculty team up to create scholarship in honor of former student writer and designer Whitten Maher

By **ERIN FLYNN**
The Breeze

JMU writing, rhetoric and technical communications professor Erin Lambert Hartman explained that a philosophy professor once taught her an important lesson about what it means to be a good person.

Her professor said, "A good person is someone animals and children don't feel afraid to be around."

Whitten Maher is one student who Hartman said lived up to such a definition and stood out from the rest in all of her eight years of teaching.

Maher who was part of the class of 2010, died on Dec. 20, 2012 at the age of 25 after taking his own life. Maher served as both a design editor and an opinion editor for *The Breeze*. During his time, he authored an award-winning column called "Gadfly."

"When Whitten died, I felt a profound sense of loss to this lineage, because what I, and others, had passed along to him seemed to have come to an end," Hartman, his former GHUM 200 professor, said.

This led Hartman and Whitten's family to create The Whitten Maher Scholarship for Writing and Design, which will be awarded in the next school year.

The scholarship is open to all full or part-time students of any major. Applicants must also be enrolled as a student for the fall semester.

"[Applicants] have to submit a written work or design that falls under one or more of the following categories: educates through a civic purpose, promotes empathy rather than derision or seeks to support or encourage populations that feel misunderstood," Kelly Snow, the director of the Office of Annual Giving, said.

All three categories mirror Whitten's personality and his writing; creating the scholarship in his honor as a way to bring his spirit back.

"Writing anything is like trying to join a conversation that started long before you arrived, and will continue long after you leave, and I sensed that Whitten really understood this," Hartman said. "He expressed this in the classroom, in his papers and often through his articles for *The Breeze*."

Whitten was also gay and many of the articles he wrote discussed sexual orientation.

Hartman remembers his ability and willingness to understand the point of view of others, even those he didn't agree with.

"When Whitten wrote, he was able to voice ideas that humanized those who, for whatever reasons, are not fully represented within that conversation," Hartman said. "Likewise, he humanized



BREEZE FILE PHOTO

Whitten Maher graduated from JMU in 2010. He also served on *The Breeze* as both an opinion editor and design editor.

those who expressed ideas with which he disagreed or that deeply offended him."

Hartman also explained that Whitten understood the importance of listening to others. His style let the readers know that he heard them, as this further encouraged them to listen to what he had to say.

"Ultimately, it is this approach to writing that we're seeking to

promote in the recipients of this memorial scholarship," Hartman said.

While Hartman remembers Maher for his writing, his work at *The Breeze* is what Brad Jenkins, general manager of *The Breeze*, remembers the most.

Whitten, who served as opinion editor and design editor for *The Breeze* for more than two years, is also responsible for much of *The Breeze's* current layout.

"His design work, I would say, is the thing that sticks with me the most because it's the thing that I still, every Monday and Thursday, look at," Jenkins said.

He explained that Whitten was able to "demonstrate" the story he was trying to tell through his design.

"The point of design is not to necessarily make something look pretty, it's to communicate something, and he understood that," Jenkins said.

Other than his work, Jenkins said Maher was known for his kindness to those he interacted with and his ability to work under pressure — especially when it came to deadlines. His dedication and compassion to his work was something many of his professors admired.

Snow, who didn't know Maher personally, experienced this sentiment when she met up with many of the WRTC professors who are supporting the scholarship.

"All of them were so touched by Whitten and were certainly grieving his loss," Snow said. "So, it was just very powerful to see so many faculty members wanting to pull together to make this happen."

His considerate attitude was re-emphasized to Hartman when his final paper was accepted at the 2009 General Education Conference.

"As tragic as Whitten's death will always be, I choose to see that he has given us an opportunity to create something that honors the great potential he had, a potential that lives in others, a potential this scholarship seeks to support," Hartman said.

According to Snow, the scholarship provides recipients \$1,000 each year they apply, and many of its supporters include JMU professors and many friends of the Maher family.

Students can nominate themselves or can be nominated by a full/part-time faculty member. Along with a PDF of the nomination and the piece being turned in, a cover letter with the student's contact information must be turned in by May 2 to be considered for the scholarship.

CONTACT Erin Flynn at flynnen@dukes.jmu.edu.

LGBT | Faculty Senate members seek answers from Alger, administration



HOLLY WARFIELD / THE BREEZE



TRIXIE HADDON / THE BREEZE

TOP Assistant political science professor Rob Alexander (left) and his partner, Chip Brown, were married in June. BOTTOM Associate mathematics professor Rebecca Field (left) has been with her wife, Anne Lorimer for 21 years. Lorimer and Field own the Blacks Run Zen Meditation Center located in downtown Harrisonburg.

from front

issue, despite the state's limitations.

"If JMU did take an active role on this and took it back to our classrooms, I think it would be really powerful," DePaolis said.

Alexander has had to deal with these discrepancies first-hand.

Alexander has been married to his partner, Chip Brown, since this past June. Since their marriage isn't recognized in Virginia, his partner can't receive the same health benefits as Alexander.

"Fortunately, [Brown] is employed, so he's able to secure those benefits through his employer," he said. "But it's a high premium, so we pay a couple hundred bucks a month for health insurance coverage."

Before he came to JMU, Alexander worked at Rochester Institute of Technology while finishing his doctorate degree at Syracuse University. Both schools, he said, were able to provide benefits for him and Brown, since they were private institutions and had more freedom to create their own policies.

Although Alexander notes that he and Brown don't suffer significant financial problems because of the lack of coverage, it's still an issue that needs to be addressed.

"For me, it's knowing that there's a financial inequality for myself and other faculty members who are married," he said. "We're not in a financial situation where those extra couple hundred bucks would make a huge difference. But I'm very empathetic with other employees at JMU who don't have the luxury that we have."

Alexander is also a leading member of the JMU LGBT Faculty and Staff Group, which advocates for the equality and interests of LGBTQIAP faculty and staff.

Last semester, Alexander said he and several other members of the group met with Art Dean, special assistant to the president for diversity, and presented a number of short- and long-term goals for JMU's LGBTQIAP community.

One of these short term goals is to have data collected on the LGBTQIAP community to get a better sense of what its needs are, and how to make JMU a safer place for that community.

"We don't really know that much about [LGBTQIAP students, faculty and staff] on campus," he said. "It's hard for us to say 'Here's some risky behaviors or challenges they face on campus.'"

While he said he understands that getting equal benefits and recognition statewide will be a

"It does make jobs outside [Virginia] preferable. Basically, my colleagues make more money than me, not because they actually have a higher salary, but because their benefit packages are worth a lot more."

Rebecca Field
associate professor
of mathematics

longer process, he's optimistic about the direction that JMU is heading. Inclusion and acceptance of the LGBTQIAP community, he said, coincides and supports the university mission as well as Alger's goals for JMU.

"A big part of being engaged is that you're not excluding anyone from that engagement," Alexander said. "If we as an institution have policies that ... somehow exclude people from engaging, that's just going to hobble us."

Associate professor of mathematics professor Rebecca Field has been with her wife, Anne Lorimer, for 21 years. Field and Lorimer have faced financial difficulties because of the lack of same-sex benefits from JMU, particularly when it comes to finding affordable and adequate health insurance for Lorimer.

Lorimer was formerly an adjunct faculty member in the anthropology department — a job that, although rewarding, didn't pay well. Lorimer, she said, was getting paid \$3,000 a class per semester, with no health benefits.

Now Lorimer owns and operates the Blacks Run Zen Center, a zen-meditation center located downtown. Through

the center, Lorimer voluntarily offers the community the opportunity to experience and learn about zen meditation and practice.

Field said she's currently trying to support herself, Lorimer and the meditation center on her salary. Lately it's been difficult because the building they purchased on East Market Street for the center needed maintenance. They recently had to remove asbestos from the building, which cost them about \$20,000.

Field said the inequality in coverage made job searching difficult, as some schools where she applied for jobs were located in states like Massachusetts, where she and Lorimer got married.

"It does make jobs outside [Virginia] preferable," Field said. "Basically, my colleagues make more money than me, not because they actually have a higher salary, but because their benefit packages are worth a lot more."

Field also remembers when, before she and Lorimer moved to Harrisonburg, Lorimer had searched the words "Harrisonburg" and "gay" on Google. One of the results they found, Field said, was a "very anti-gay" letter to the editor published in the *Daily News-Record*.

"It almost made me reject the job right there," she said.

But Field said her teaching experience at JMU has been positive. She recalled when her department voted unanimously to support the Faculty Senate resolution.

"I was just so touched — no one voted against it," she said. "I know it's not about me, but I was the only person there at our department meeting who could be affected by this."

Despite their difficulties, Field said it's important to recognize that the unequal distribution of benefits affects same-sex couples who have children on an even greater level. She said that she's known employees who have left Virginia because they wanted to have children.

Field also said by having these policies in place, it negatively affects JMU.

"You do lose people just because of that one thing — and good people too."

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DC | Students appreciate exposure to culture and life in Washington D.C.



JMU Semester in Washington students grab a bite to eat at Busboys and Poets, a restaurant, bookstore, lounge and theater in D.C. this semester.

from page 3

Lester said the most valuable thing the program in D.C. has brought her is the exposure to different cultures and experiences.

"The more you open your eyes, to new things, the fuller your life will be ... it just allows you to have a broader scope of what this earth really encompasses," she said. "This program has allowed me to do that."

Aislin Kavaljian, a junior political science major, has greatly enjoyed the chance to try an assortment of new and unique places to eat.

"Some of my favorite memories thus far have been at restaurants that dot the National Mall," she said. "I love Adams Morgan for the food and bar scene, and basically any good restaurant anywhere. I'm a foodie."

For some, the numerous luxuries offered in the program make it too expensive to be feasible.

To spend a semester in D.C., students pay regular tuition and fees, \$200 for registration, plus an additional \$4,500 housing fee. While the cost has remained relatively the same, it's still out of reach for a lot of students.

Faith Hastie, a senior international affairs major, was

accepted into the program but couldn't afford it.

"I think it is a great chance to network, shadow people in your field and learn how to talk and act the way you would in a professional career," Hastie said. "I would highly recommend that those who can afford it go because it is an incredible opportunity."

For students like Hewan Mengsteab, a freshman international affairs major, a semester in D.C. would be a dream come true.

"Just being able to go to Washington and experience big city life would be incredible," she said. She hopes to apply to the program in the near future.

Fortunately for her, the program seems to be expanding.

"While we do not have a satellite campus, we are exploring the option of our own facility. But that is very much in the preliminary stage," Jones said. "Alumni are very interested in building our presence in Washington and having a functional space. But it is years away, if it even happens at all."

For those who've attended, the program continues to be a valuable learning experience and helpful resume booster.

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QUAD CAT SUPER BOWL



BLAIR ROSEN / THE BREEZE

NAHLA ABOUTABL | contributing columnist

Egypt remains in a state of unrest after three years

JMU students should be grateful for their rights as Americans

It seems like Egypt has been all over the news for the past three years. And for good reason. Egypt's a mess. Whether you're an Egyptian or just a person who follows the news, you know how unstable Egypt has been.

Being an Egyptian American makes it especially hard not to get caught up in the black hole that is now Egyptian politics. I was born and raised in America, but went to Egypt for summer vacations with my family almost every year. Growing up, these visits made me attached to Egypt in a way that I otherwise wouldn't have been, thus the concerns I have about the country's condition.

Three years after its revolution, Egypt still seems to be fighting the same battle. I've been to Egypt twice in the last three years as well as before the revolution started, and I can honestly say that Egypt is the worst it's ever been.

Let me break it down for you. After Hosni Mubarak, Egypt's former dictator, was ousted, the Egyptian military ruled what was an interim government. During that period, many political parties developed or regained their vigor with the hope that democracy would allow them to pursue their political goals. The Egyptian people were impatient and protested against the military's rule of Egypt. "Down, down with military rule" was the chant that I and many others shouted in the streets.

Mubarak was just another army general, after all, and repeating the same mistake of trusting the military was something Egyptians were not willing to do. Back in

2011 that is. Anyway, one of the political groups that rose to power during that period was the Muslim Brotherhood. Yes, and what is that exactly you might ask? Well, the Muslim Brotherhood, or MB, is an old Egyptian political party that was founded on basic Islamic principles. They aren't extremists, but they're also not the most liberal, as with most religious political organizations out there.

Nonetheless, the MB gained a lot of supporters and won Egypt's first democratic and fair presidential elections, making Mohamed Morsi Egypt's first democratically elected president. I was there when Morsi won the election, and the people's happiness and hope had was at an all-time high.

Of course not everyone agreed with the MB or Morsi, and I myself was hesitant about the dangerous mixture of religion and politics, especially since Egypt has a considerable Coptic population and did not want the MB in power during such a critical time for Egypt.

A year or so passed and Egypt's 30 years of corruption weren't magically fixed. Shocking. What strikes me as most detrimental to the (failed) Egyptian revolution is that people were not patient and expected results from Morsi right away.

They hadn't even let him finish his four-year term when once again Egyptians took to the streets in June of 2013 and gave what the military called "permission" to throw him out of office. Soon after that, none other than the military took over Egypt again in what many described as a "military

coup." General Abdel Fattah el-Sisi is "running" for president in the upcoming elections. An election in which there will probably be no opposition.

Even more concerning is the fact that many anti-military protesters have died, with around 50 dying on the revolution's third anniversary due to clashes with police and army forces. Since then, the MB has been called a terrorist group and any outward support for them may lead

to police brutality or a jail sentence. What's even more baffling is the number of Egyptians who support the military even after all the bloodshed it has caused.

Still, I have hope for Egypt. Hope that one day the poor and powerless will have a say in their future. Hope that religion won't be used as a political tool to gather votes; nor will the media use people's ignorance to their advantage. Times like these are when I most

appreciate being an American.

I can voice my opinions with a greater amount of freedom than almost anywhere in the world. I just hope one day that freedom can be extended to people all over the world.

Nahla Aboutabl is a sophomore political science and international affairs double major. Contact Nahla at aboutanm@dukes.jmu.edu.



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Police in Cairo, Egypt block off an area that is a result of a car bombing. The bomb killed at least five and injured 51 others.

DARTS & PATS

Darts & Pats are anonymously submitted and printed on a space-available basis. Submissions creatively depict a given situation, person or event and do not necessarily reflect the truth. Submit Darts & Pats at breezejmu.org

A "please-quiet-down" dart to my faithful car. While I appreciate you handling the snow well, a little less screeching and squealing while we drive would be nice.

From a driver who knows it is freezing but doesn't want to feel embarrassed anymore.

An "I-hope-you-enjoy-the-cigars-you-roll-with-my-money" dart to Parking Services for offering shamefully limited and less than convenient parking and for not fixing the Grace Street Deck counter.

From someone who doesn't appreciate their already limited options becoming even more limited.

A "just-watch-it-on-Netflix" dart to University Program Board for falsely claiming during the "2013 Rewind" Trivia Night that Michael Scott (Steve Carell) was boss of "The Office" in its final season. Andy Bernard (Ed Helms) takes over!

From a loyal fan who is disappointed that you shamed the good name of Dunder-Mifflin Paper Company.

An "if-you-have-a-cell-phone-you-have-a-ride" dart to the person who admitted that they drove while being over twice the legal limit and to the police officer who let them go with only a warning.

From a JMU alumna who still loves to read witty Darts and Pats, not ones about compromising lives.

A "thanks-for-being-there" pat to the Nap Nook for giving me a warm place to snuggle up between classes during this arctic tundra.

From a frozen senior who is too lazy to drive home for a much-needed nap.

A "what?!" dart to a female op-ed writer who's anti-feminist.

From a male reader who knows that word really means women deserve the same rights as men.

A "that's-not-what-we-do-here" dart to the jerk who stole and used my gold JACard five months before graduation.

From a senior who would have liked to keep the same one all four years.

A "hey-good-lookin'-what-you-got-cookin'" pat to Donna, the goddess of D-Hall, for being the coolest woman out there.

From a student who appreciates Donna's welcoming smile and pretty hair.

A "big-cheese" pat to The Breeze editor for being the big cheese.

From the cheese cutter.

A "some-of-us-have-to-actually-show-up-in-order-to-earn-a-paycheck" dart to the student who was able to get up, look outside, email her supervisor and go back to sleep when it snowed the other week.

From someone who feels you need to think before you take that silver spoon out of your mouth to speak.

A "you-obviously-don't-know-what-you're-talking-about" dart to the person who wrote the opinion piece on the Blackboard/Canvas split.

From a Center for Information Technology student worker who has seen professors not want to make an effort in switching to Canvas, and knows that if students want to find a tutorial, they can look for one.

A "high-five" pat to the opinion section, and everyone who put work into it, for a great informative section on Jan. 30.

From an informed student.

A "cheerio" pat to the people who started the London alumni chapter.

From a student that has been looking for a way back since she left.

A "you're-welcome" dart to the girl who caught my roommate and me off guard and interrupted our conversation to ask us if we were done eating.

From two seniors who know that tables at Top Dog are a commodity but just needed some extra time to sit and relax between classes.

A "do-you-really-care-about-us?" dart to JMU for allowing people to go to class in inclement weather, then canceling while others were already on their way to class.

From someone who could have died.

A "you're-the-new-Lil-Wayne" dart to Hugh Grant for fathering three children by three different women, all of whom he's never had a serious relationship with.

From someone who knows what condoms and the Pill are.

A "you-almost-made-me-cry-tears-of-joy" pat to the girl that generously tipped her server at Madison Grill on Friday night.

From your server, who was having a rough week and needed the blessing!

Editorial Policies

The Breeze welcomes and encourages readers to voice their opinions through letters and guest columns. Letters must be no longer than 250 words. Guest columns must be no more than 650 words.

The Breeze reserves the right to edit submissions for length, grammar and if material is libelous, factually inaccurate or unclear. The Breeze assumes the rights to any published work. Opinions expressed in this page, with the exception of editorials, are not necessarily those of The Breeze or its staff.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted in print or via e-mail and must include name, phone number, major/year if author is a current student (or year of graduation), professional title (if applicable) and place of residence if author is not a JMU student.

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— JAMES MADISON, 1800

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Sun. 2/23	6:00pm	Grafton	Film and Panel: <i>Miss Representation</i> FREE
Tues. 2/25	7:00pm	Grafton	Sexing Ed: From Eating Disordered to Transgender with Ryan Sallans

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Out with the *old*

New gallery exhibit calls attention to historic renovation of downtown Harrisonburg



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE HARRISONBURG REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JAMES CHUNG AND LAUREN GORDON

Houses like this on East Rock Street were demolished in the 1960s during the federally-funded R-4 and R-16 urban renewal projects. The buildings, usually considered to be "blighted" or in poor condition, were torn down to make room for more profitable business real estate, though many were replaced by parking lots.

By **MARY KATE WHITE**
The Breeze

At a JMuse cafe event in September, Doris Allen, now 87 years old, recounted the tale of "two white men" handing her an envelope and telling her she had six months to get out of her home. She said she may have harbored "some resentment," but that "what they done to us, they done to all."

A new exhibit in Roop Hall's Institute for Visual Studies, opening tomorrow, hopes to spark discussions like this about Harrisonburg's changes of the past and how they're still affecting us today.

The exhibit, "What Was Lost: Urban Renewal in 1960s Harrisonburg," documents the changes brought to downtown Harrisonburg by the R-16 urban renewal project in 1962. Photographs comparing buildings in place in northeast Harrisonburg before 1962 and photographs of the buildings (or parking lots) that now stand in their places will be on display until April 4.

The R-4 and R-16 urban renewal projects in the early '60s were intended to generate revenue for cities across America. Cities proposed plans to update "blighted" or dilapidated areas by demolishing them and building new and improved business properties in their place. While the project was successful in generating income for the city, it often left many of the area's poor population displaced, and forced them to move into massive housing projects or leave town completely.

The Institute for Visual Studies' director David Ehrenpreis hosted a JMuse cafe event last September and displayed photographs and maps of the R-4 urban renewal project, similar to those of tomorrow's exhibit, inviting Harrisonburg citizens to come out and share their memories and feelings. They talked about the negative sides of the project, but also aimed to understand the positive impact.

"The amazing thing is that a lot of people here don't

know this happened because a large majority of people just moved away during that time," Jessica Strawn, program assistant for the Institute for Visual Studies, said. "I also want them to ... look at the photos and maps and get a sense of direction and be able to reconstruct these areas and get a mental image of what was there."

The Institute for Visual Studies teamed up with Carrier Library's special collections library to collect photos and documents relating to the changes downtown. Lynn Eaton, a special collections librarian, worked with Michael Wong of the Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority to gather the photos for display in the exhibit.

"[Doris Allen] moved two blocks up the road and she said that she and everyone else that lived there, she could remember sitting in the new house and listening to her old house burn."

David Ehrenpreis
Director of the Institute of Visual Studies

"Our mission is to collect the curio that documents the university and the Shenandoah Valley," Eaton said. "We decided it would be great if the photos could be part of special collections, but it was David's [Ehrenpreis] initiative to include the photos in the JMuse cafe program."

The project has attracted the attention of many scholars who are eager to use their skills to further explore the impact of the urban renewal project. Sean Wright, a media

arts and design professor, plans to make a documentary about it. One history professor is leading a class in collecting oral histories of the area.

During the renewal project in 1962, entire city blocks were condemned for redevelopment. Many families who rented houses were given a small monetary reimbursement and then evicted.

At the JMuse cafe event in the Lucy F. Simms Continuing Education Center, some of the people affected by the project came to speak out about their experiences.

"[Doris Allen] moved two blocks up the road and she said that she and everyone else that lived there, she could remember sitting in the new house and listening to her old house burn," Ehrenpreis said.

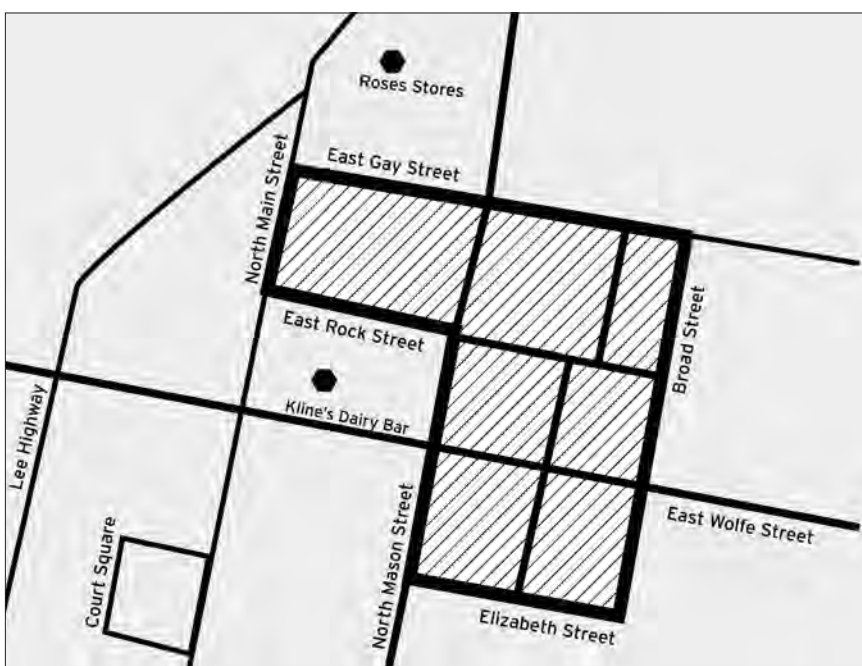
Ehrenpreis' passion for the project is clear. His words drip with disdain for the landowners who made millions at the hands of the poor, integrated community that was "destroyed." While he holds those who benefitted from the project in contempt, what disturbs him more is the lack of awareness from local citizens.

"I got interested in this because I had no idea any of this had happened and I had always wondered why the land between Kline's [Dairy Bar] and Little Grill looked like a bomb had gone off," Ehrenpreis said. "I started asking people what happened and no one knew, but I asked someone who was like 65 years old and they were like 'Oh, that was urban renewal.'"

Ehrenpreis plans to continue his work with Harrisonburg's urban renewal project for the months to come. He hopes that by bringing the past into the present, people can use their knowledge to make better decisions for the community as a whole.

"It's about honoring the past and shaping the future, and how do we create a world that accepts what has happened but shows how it could be different and how it could be better?"

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BLAIR ROSEN / THE BREEZE

Several blocks of downtown Harrisonburg were demolished in the 1960s because of the federally-funded R-4 and R-16 urban renewal projects. The projects were intended to increase tax revenue for towns, but displaced many of the town's low-income families.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE HARRISONBURG REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY



JAMES CHUNG / THE BREEZE

TOP The M and S Restaurant once stood on North Main Street, but was demolished in the R-16 urban renewal project. **BOTTOM** The Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church now stands in M and S Restaurant's former place.

DOG | 'She's better than some students – she doesn't have a cell phone.'

from front

Selove was allowed to ride the school bus with Sylvia, until the school board found a student on the bus who was allergic to dogs. The school board then banned Sylvia from the bus once again, despite the fact that the student was already on medication for her allergy and the ADA forbids the discrimination of service dogs because of allergies.

This conflict continued until Nathan got to high school, where the school administration was much more welcoming to Sylvia. By the time Selove was a freshman, his battle with bullying was practically over; the bullying had almost completely subsided and his academic performance improved significantly.

"It has been a miracle," Nathan's mother, Shellie Selove, said. "We did not expect that a service dog would have such an enormous impact on his life and the lives of our family."

JMU greeted Nathan and Sylvia with the same welcoming attitude.

"JMU is very much about diversity, so when we contacted Disability Services they were very open," Selove said. "They were very welcoming and very accommodating."

While Selove is hardly the first student to have a service dog accompany him to class, service dogs are not usually an option pursued by people who have Asperger's.

"I'm hoping that it's going to become more common in the next

few years," Selove said. "I'm not the only one in the U.S. There aren't a lot of people [who have service dogs for Asperger's] but there are quite a few. It's a relatively new method."

Although Sylvia and autism service dogs are new to JMU, there was already a policy in place that allowed service dogs on campus.

Policy 1330 defines a handler as "a person with a disability who is the owner and user of a service animal," with a service animal being "any animal trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of and to accommodate the functional needs of an individual with a disability." The policy allows a service dog in almost any area that the handler is allowed to be.

The professors have also been welcoming to Sylvia. Jorge Nieto, a Spanish professor, even includes Sylvia on his attendance roll.

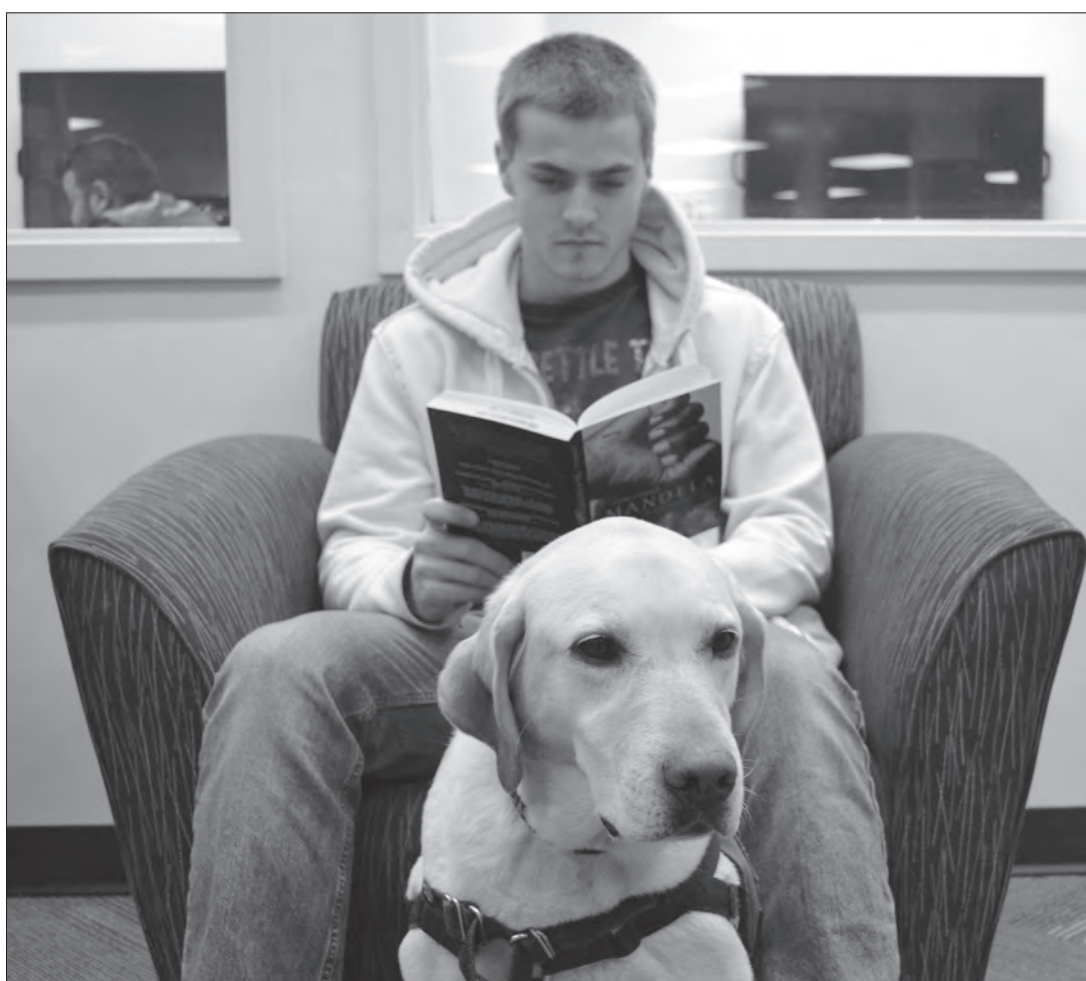
"Sylvia just lays down under his desk," Nieto said. "She never barks. She's better than some students — she doesn't have a cell phone."

Selove says that Sylvia played a huge role in his decision and ability to attend JMU.

"Honestly, I don't think I could have come to a university if it weren't for her," Selove said. "Sylvia was really able to bring me out of my shell."

When asked to comment on her feelings toward her job, Sylvia responded with, "Woof."

CONTACT Lauren Hunt at huntle@dukes.jmu.edu.



HOLLY WARFIELD / THE BREEZE

Nathan Selove was often bullied when he was younger because he has Asperger's syndrome. He says Sylvia has changed that.

Worth the labor

Director Jason Reitman's romantic drama, just in time for Valentine's Day, simmers but doesn't stun audience



COURTESY OF MCTCAMPUS

"Labor Day," though beautiful, fails to break away from romantic movie stereotypes.

By **TRAVIS BARBOUR**
The Breeze

Well ladies and gentlemen, February is upon us again, and with that comes an onslaught of usually bad and formulaic romantic comedies and Nicholas Sparks adaptations. Thankfully, there's at least one film among the impending disasters that's a legitimately interesting and poignant love story, though it's certainly not without its faults.

"Labor Day" centers on single mom Adele (Kate Winslet) raising her 13-year-old son Henry (Gattlin Griffith) while battling chronic depression. It's clear from the start that Winslet's character is broken; she never really leaves her house, although it isn't too obvious is why. We can assume it has something to do with her ex-husband leaving her, but there's more to the story than meets the eye.

Henry does all he can to help his mother feel less alone: making her breakfast in bed and crafting those cute coupon booklets we've all made once or twice. But even Henry feels that his efforts are futile when it comes to comforting his mother.

On one of her rare excursions out of the house, Henry introduces Adele to Frank (Josh Brolin). Having just escaped from prison, Frank coerces the mother and son into hiding him in their home. However, for an inmate who warrants a \$10,000 reward, he's quite friendly and helpful. Cue the familiar song and dance.

"Labor Day" certainly has a predictable plot. Love-starved Adele finds solace in the arms of a criminal handyman, once he establishes value by fixing up her dilapidated home and teaching her son all the cliché dad duties like throwing a baseball. However, director Jason Reitman ("Juno," "Thank You For Smoking") reveals Frank and Adele's character struggles in unique and beautiful ways.

As his mother's romance with Frank blossoms, Henry begins to worry that his mother and her convict-lover may abandon him. Henry's development is far more intriguing than that of his mother's revived sense of passion. Going through puberty with lackluster examples of love, he strives to understand himself and where he ranks in his mother's life.

Even though I enjoyed discovering these characters, there are some glaring imperfections in the screenplay that make this story hard to fully believe.

First, as the title suggests, this entire story develops over the course of Labor Day weekend. So in the short span of five days, Adele is held hostage, falls in love with her captor and plans to run away to Canada with him, leaving everything she's ever known behind to start a new life. If given a longer time-frame, this story might be believable, but since it doesn't, the film borders on a glorified case of Stockholm syndrome.

I also had some issues with just how obvious the whole family was behaving. Just as a tip, if you're harboring an escaped fugitive, don't teach the said fugitive how to dance in front of the windows, and lock your doors so your neighbors can't barge in whenever they want to drop off some excess peaches. You know, basic stuff.

This inattention to detail, along with some sappiness and predictability causes the film to fall flat in some respects. However, the film is shot rather beautifully, and the characters are at least engaging and intriguing. Additionally, Winslet and Brolin definitely have acting chops, but that was never in question.

One final quail I had with the film was how Henry grows up to be Tobey Maguire ("Spider-Man"), the film's narrator. Sure this doesn't matter in the grand scheme of things, but since Henry looks nothing like Maguire, it's odd that he grows into him. I suppose Reitner enjoyed Maguire's narrating work on "The Great Gatsby," but the casting director should have exercised some common sense.

"Labor Day" certainly has its flaws, but I can almost guarantee it'll be one of the better romance movies to arrive this month.

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Bringing it



COURTESY OF ERIK NOMM

Alternative pop-rock band Forgetting August performs at Empire in Springfield, Va. on Jan. 12.

Northern Virginia-based band Forgetting August hopes to renew interest in forgotten genre of alternative pop-rock

By **DOMINIQUE LATEGANO**
The Breeze

There's a group of five college students decked out in collared shirts with a lead singer in a dress, performing in front of a crowd of tattooed and pierced "scene" kids. Their music doesn't fit the outfits but the crowd is enticed. This isn't a joke, this is alternative pop-rock band Forgetting August.

"Despite our tidy look onstage I like to think we deliver an explosive rock show," drummer James Adelsberger, a freshman business management major, said.

The band has been together since last May. "We are definitely different [from other bands in the genre]; we aren't what you would think of an alternative rock band, but we stayed very true to ourselves and who we are as people and musicians," vocalist Kaitlyn Salazar, a sophomore hospitality major, said.

With Northern Virginian roots, the band is made up of high school friends Salazar, Adelsberger and guitarist John Brooks, a sophomore music industry major, who all attend JMU. Jason Eller, a sophomore electrical engineering major, and Mitchell Sandoe, a mechanical engineering major, are also part of the band, but attend Virginia Tech.

"I've been friends with Kaitlyn since she had the idea of the band, all the way through actually creating the band to now writing songs, performing and recording. It's awesome to see them continuously improve since they first began," Nicole Grabowski, a sophomore kinesiology major, said.

During shows, Forgetting August plays a 50-50 mix of covers and originals; songs by Mayday Parade are a favorite of the band. Their sound is similar to old Paramore and Hey Monday; the band is trying to spur an alternative pop-rock comeback.

"Focused and calculated teen angst is how I would describe it; I absolutely adore the genre of music," Brian Donovan, a sophomore quantitative finance and math double major, said. Donovan is a friend of the band and is hoping to audition in August and become part of Forgetting August sometime soon.

The band members share an interest in working in the music industry after college.

Using the band as a way to gain knowledge in each of their desired fields, Salazar manages the website and bookings while Brooks records and finishes the tracks; he created the entire EP "Red Light Running" in his basement studio.

Forgetting August produces music they want to listen to. The band really enjoys listening to their EP, saying it defines who they are and helps them produce music they actually want to listen to.

Salazar, who often writes about relationships, describes the creative fire behind songwriting.

"I write mainly about what I'm looking at or thinking about in the present moment," Salazar said. She has written songs in the past about "The Walking Dead" and "The Lord of the Rings." However, many of the themes of the songs are hidden; without reading the lyrics one might not catch on to the story behind the songs.

Salazar looks to Kelly Clarkson for inspiration because of her "perfect mix between rock and pop," referring to the sound of Clarkson's "Breakaway" album. Brooks and Salazar are the main lyricists in the band.

Adelsberger aspires to be like Tommy Lee from Mötley Crüe. He is known for making a "crazy rage face" while jamming out on the drums during shows.

"I've seen them perform various times. My favorite is when they were at Empire Music Club because the stage is really raised so it's like they're performing almost above you and it's very cool to see them like that," sophomore history major at Virginia Tech Jessica Sutherland said. "The crowd really seems to enjoy their covers."

Forgetting August is performing upcoming shows at TDU, Relay for Life and the Harrisonburg Farmers Market in April. The current and main goals of the band are to stick together through college and hopefully gain a fan base, and then ultimately becoming the best of their genre.

Forgetting August released their first EP "Red Light Running" on Jan. 22, available free for download on their website, ForgettingAugust.com.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (16-4)

Taking care of business

Women's basketball in the middle of charm season, remain undefeated in conference play



PHOTOS COURTESY CATHY KUSHNER / JMU ATHLETICS

ABOVE Nikki Newman, Kirby Burkholder and Jazmon Gwathmey make up three-fifths of JMU's starting lineup. **RIGHT** Precious Hall scored a career-high 25 points, including a career-high five three-pointers in Friday's win. **BOTTOM** Angela Mickens has been effective in helping run JMU's offense, she had six assists Friday.



By WAYNE EPPS JR.
The Breeze

With each passing game, women's basketball seems to set new records and milestones. The team is 6-0 in Colonial Athletic Association play for the first time since the 2006-07 season. The group appears to be hitting on all cylinders.

After Friday's 92-59 win over the College of Charleston at the Convocation Center, JMU is now beating conference opponents by an average of 33.8 points per game. In 2006-07, that margin of victory was 20.5 points per game in the first six games. The Dukes already beat the two-time defending CAA champion University of Delaware by 36 points.

So what's it like being a part of this run? "These kids continue to grow in their roles," head coach Kenny Brooks said after Friday's win. "And the way they're playing right now, I'm very proud of them and it's a lot of fun to be associated with them."

One of the hallmarks of the Dukes' success this season is their ability to find new ways to win. On any given day, someone can step up and have a career night. On Friday, sophomore guard Precious Hall had a career-high 25 points, including a career-high five three-pointers.

JMU made 12 three-pointers Friday, which ties the program record. The last time the Dukes hit 12 threes was against Georgia State University in 2010.

At the University of North Carolina at Wilmington on Jan. 26, redshirt sophomore guard Jazmon Gwathmey tied her career-high with 17 points. Before that, redshirt senior forward Nikki Newman scored a career-high four three-pointers against Drexel University on Jan. 23.

"You try to take away certain elements of our game, and then other ones pop up," Brooks said.

In the midst of standout individual performances, JMU is adept at distributing the ball and converting. In JMU's last four games, at least four of the starting five finished with double-digit scoring figures. JMU is also second in the CAA with 14.6 assists per game.

"We're playing well because these kids have really bought into the system. They've bought into what we're trying to do," Brooks said. "Everyone's getting very comfortable in their roles. They share the basketball extremely

well. And then we're talented."

As well as JMU is playing, there's no such thing as a perfect game in basketball. The team watches game film after every contest to find areas to improve — though that job is getting harder.

"My assistant coaches, really they're nitpicking," Brooks said. "Some of the things that they're putting on the film that are in the category of bad — bad defense or bad offense — really is not that bad. It's just, you got to put something on there."

JMU has 10 regular-season games left to play, but Brooks is already trying to find new ways to get his team roused for each game. He described one moment before Friday's game against the CAA-newcomer Cougars.

"I started the huddle [at practice Thursday] and I said, 'Hey, we got to get focused, we've never beaten Charleston.' And they kind of got riled up a little bit," Brooks said. "And then like two seconds later Precious Hall said, 'Have we ever played them?' And I said, 'Nah.'"

If there's one point of motivation that the Dukes can stick to each game, it's the fact that the rest of the CAA sees them with a target on their backs. The JMU game is one that other teams circle on their schedules.

"Before every game, coach tells us that when they play JMU it's their Super Bowl. They get hyped off of playing JMU and we know that about every team," Hall said. "We see that with every team. We just know we have to come out there and play hard because every team's gunning for us right now."

JMU has already beaten the rest of the top-five teams in the CAA standings: Drexel, Delaware, Charleston and Towson University. There's been talk of the possibility of JMU going undefeated in regular-season conference play. The last time that happened was in 1989, the third season in a row that the Dukes didn't lose in conference.

"I don't know if it's going to continue," Brooks said of his team's dominance thus far. "I think some people are going to make some adjustments, they're going to do some things. We're going to go on the road, some things are going to happen. But right now, I just know that this group is very

confident, and they're playing extremely well. And one of the things that they've learned out to do is not take their foot off the pedal."

Nationally, JMU is drawing some buzz in ESPN bracketologist Charlie Creme's NCAA tournament projection. Right now, Creme has JMU as a No. 9 seed playing No. 8 University of Oklahoma in the Lincoln, Neb. region.

In the polls, JMU received one vote in each of the first four AP Top 25 rankings, but hasn't since then.

"Obviously, it's something we want but it's not like we're upset that we're not going to get it," Newman said after the Drexel game. "I mean, we'll prove ourselves."

JMU will try to keep its conference streak going at the College of William & Mary (4-14, 1-5 CAA) tomorrow at 7 p.m.

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BASKETBALL | 'An inexperienced team learning a valuable lesson'



MATT SCHMACHTENBERG / THE BREEZE

Sophomore guard Andre Nation scored 18 points and had six rebounds in JMU's 81-79 loss to William & Mary on Sunday at the Convocation Center.

from front

that moment," Semenov said. "I should have actually pulled back and maybe gotten a better shot."

"It's a tough loss for a young team still trying to find its identity. 'Again I feel like we beat ourselves,' sophomore guard Andre Nation said. "It's one more piece of the puzzle that's missing."

The shot wouldn't fall for JMU, but these are the types of close games players love — win or lose.

"It's fun," Curry said. "That's what you play basketball for. We kind of knew what kind of game it was going to be."

Through the first 11 minutes of the first half, JMU shot just 21 percent from the field while the Tribe logged a solid 64 percent. The Tribe finished the first half shooting 57 percent from the field; JMU finished shooting 34 percent. William & Mary was also deadly from behind the arc in the first half going 9-13 (69 percent).

Semenov picked up much of the slack with just minutes remaining in the half, going on an 8-0 run that closed the gap considerably

— a gap that might have been exploited in the second half if it weren't for the run.

The Tribe led 41-30 at the break.

"We didn't play hard at all in the first half," Nation said. "They got whatever they wanted and we weren't talking."

Semenov's momentum spilled over into the second half as he sparked up the offense and the Convocation Center crowd. JMU went on the 20-8 run over the last two minutes of the first half and the first four minutes of the second half to get back into the game.

"Keep playing hard," Nation said of the team's halftime communication. "Keep playing like we did the last three minutes of the first half."

At the 13:49 mark in the second half, Curry drained a three from the top of the key to give JMU its first lead of the game, going up 49-48, and sending the crowd into a fit.

The Dukes saw the lead for all of 28 seconds Sunday afternoon. William & Mary led by as many as 16.

"Putting it together for 40 minutes is our challenge," Brady said.

JMU climbed back from several deficits Sunday, but there was one guy always in the Dukes' way.

William & Mary junior guard Marcus Thornton came into Sunday's game averaging 19.4 points per game, sixth best in the Colonial Athletic Association. He was lights out from everywhere Sunday, scoring 26 points despite a concerted effort by JMU's defense to put him out.

"It was hard," Nation said, about guarding Thornton. "I was talking to him on the court and he said it was hard to score because we were switched [matchups] everything. He's probably the most talented offensive player in the CAA."

Every time the Dukes were there to gain some momentum and stride, Thornton and his unorthodox shooting motion was there to answer. Hop-step here, step-back there, Thornton has been a nuisance to JMU in every one of his three years in the conference.

Brady added that this has become status quo.

"He's been doing this for three years," Brady said of Thornton. "I'm not surprised but I think my guys are."

Prior to Sunday, Semenov had not scored in double digits since posting 11 points against The University of Delaware on Jan. 11. But he was hot on Sunday, scoring a season high 23 points, while also going 5-8 from downtown.

So is the shooting stroke JMU fans are familiar with back for the feisty veteran?

"It's a little early to tell," Semenov said. "I made a few threes, but if I can do it for a few games in a row, then we can talk about it."

The Dukes had 16 assists Sunday, a season-high; that doubled their season average of just over eight per game. Curry had a career-high nine dishes.

JMU (8-14, 3-5 CAA) will have a quick turnaround now as it travels to Maryland for a matchup Tuesday night with Towson University. The Tigers are coming off a close win against Drexel University, edging out a 75-73 victory Saturday. Towson is second in the conference at 5-2 in league play and will pose a great threat to the Dukes in the paint. Senior forward Jerrelle Benimon leads the CAA with 12.6 rebounds per game. So far, he's the favorite for player of the year in the conference.

"We're not going to get better in the next three weeks unless we practice well," Brady said. "We're a very inexperienced team learning a valuable lesson. I think invaluable if we can learn it well."

William & Mary head coach Tony Shaver called JMU an "experienced young [team]" Time will buy experience and surely tell whether JMU learns its much needed lessons.

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Hokies and Dukes spread their wings at Red Bull Rivals



HOLLY WARFIELD / THE BREEZE



MARK OWEN / THE BREEZE

JMU finishes second in third annual competition

JMU, Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia participated in the 3rd annual Red Bull Rivals Event at Massanutten Resort Saturday night. JMU won the event in 2012 and 2013, but Virginia Tech edged out participants from JMU's Boarderline Ski & Snow club this year.

The event consisted of 30 total participants with 10 from each university. The format included two heats of five riders from each school in each heat. Heats were 30-minutes long and each rider's score contributed to the team's overall score.

David Taylor, a freshman from Virginia Tech, won the event's best trick award for a switch backflip. The Hokies went on to win with a score of 246. JMU finished second with 212 points and U.Va. rounded out the table with 210 points.



HOLLY WARFIELD / THE BREEZE



MARK OWEN / THE BREEZE



HOLLY WARFIELD / THE BREEZE

Track passes more qualifiers with performance at Mason

The Dukes qualified for four more events in the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Championships Saturday at the George Mason Patriot Games. JMU won the 4X800 relay and freshman Ebony Owusu-Sampah won the long jump.

Owusu-Sampah hit 5.81 meters in the long jump, qualifying her for the ECACs. The 4X800 relay team also qualified for ECACs, winning the event with a time of 9:10.40. Sophomore Kathleen Stewart, senior Katie Harman, junior Erin Lopresti and freshman Tessa Mundell make up the team.

Elsewhere, freshman Morgan Crewe qualified for the ECACs, clearing 1.71 meters in the high jump. Crewe finished second in the event. The fourth ECAC qualifier was freshman Deana Forbes, who

finished second in the 60-meter dash with a time of 8.76. That time was also the second-fastest 60-meter time in JMU indoor track history.

Finally, sophomore Adrienne Alexander finished second in the weight throw with a time of 14.38 enters.

Friday, the meet's first day, freshman Summer Walter took second in the pentathlon. She rode a first-place finish in the 800-meter run and came in second in the long jump to a total of 3,216 points in the event. That is now the fifth-highest total in JMU indoor track history.

Next up for JMU is the Sykes & Sabock Challenge Cup Saturday in State College, Pa.

- staff report

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