

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE:

Check thebreeze.org for a review of the Sons of Bill concert.

the Breeze

James Madison University's Student Newspaper

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Miller Hall makeover

Psych and poli sci departments get new labs for research



CAROLINE DAVIS/staff photographer

Miller Hall is now equipped with labs geared toward both human and animal research.

BY ASHLEY SIEGLE
contributing writer

After two years of renovations, Miller Hall now offers brand new facilities for students of psychology and political science, as well as graduate psychology, sociology and other programs in the College of Arts and Letters.

The building's interior was demolished entirely and remodeled with a more institutional, yet beneficial design. Miller now has two elevators, larger conference rooms, reception areas, sensory lights, department suites and handicapped accessibility.

Fifty laboratory rooms have been constructed throughout the first floor of Miller, equipped with brand new facilities specialized for research in visual perception and performance, auditory perception, behavior analysis, biofeedback, forensic psychology and cognitive science. Labs include suites geared toward both human and animal research.

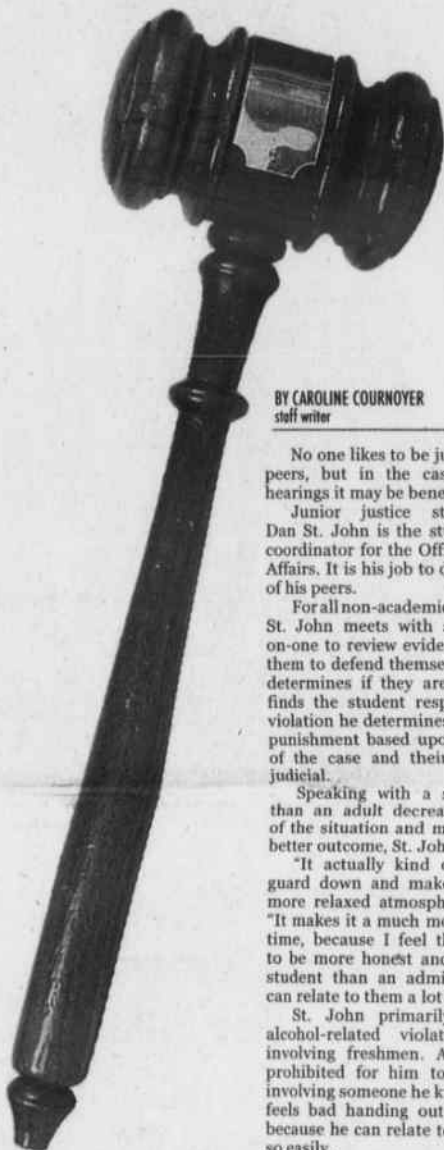
"We miss Johnston [Hall] because it was homey — it had really big windows, high ceilings, bigger offices," said Michael Stoloff, one of the leading organizers behind the building's renovation. "That was nice, but we have facilities now that we didn't have before, and we can do things here that weren't feasible in Johnston. Plus, the whole faculty can be in one place. That helps students. All the professors are right here in this building."

Students who aren't psychology majors can also reap the benefit of these technologies, as several studies deal with everyday stresses like test anxiety.

"Our smoking cessation research will help people quit smoking," Stoloff said. "We have equipment that is able to monitor nicotine levels and help individuals do the things necessary to quit. Heart-rate biofeedback will also assist individuals in relieving their own test anxiety by giving them information on the beating of their own hearts."

LAYING DOWN THE LAW

Judicial Affairs focuses on rehabilitation to discourage repeat offenders



BY CAROLINE COURNOYER
staff writer

No one likes to be judged by their peers, but in the case of judicial hearings it may be beneficial.

Junior justice studies major Dan St. John is the student judicial coordinator for the Office of Judicial Affairs. It is his job to decide the fate of his peers.

For all non-academic related cases, St. John meets with students one-on-one to review evidence and allow them to defend themselves before he determines if they are guilty. If he finds the student responsible for a violation he determines the student's punishment based upon the severity of the case and their history with judicial.

Speaking with a student rather than an adult decreases the stress of the situation and may make for a better outcome, St. John said.

"It actually kind of takes their guard down and makes it an a lot more relaxed atmosphere," he said. "It makes it a much more productive time, because I feel they are going to be more honest and open with a student than an administrator. We can relate to them a lot better."

St. John primarily deals with alcohol-related violations, mostly involving freshmen. Although it is prohibited for him to hear a case involving someone he knows, he often feels bad handing out punishments because he can relate to the students so easily.

"Your initial reaction is, 'I wish they didn't have to come in here at all. I wish they were not responsible so they could go on their way,'" he said. "You want to help them out as much

as possible."

Despite his wishes, St. John must assume his duties as student judicial coordinator and hand out sanctions as needed, hoping students won't return.

"You have to go past that and think, 'Would it really help them to hold them not responsible?'" he said. "As you do feel bad, you realize you're doing a much greater service by handing out sanctions."

The most common punishment that St. John hands out is a one-time, two-hour, discussion-based class. He said the class goes beyond discussing the side effects of alcohol and focuses on how students can remain out of trouble and safe in the future.

"This isn't punishment for the sake of punishment," he said. "This class is the absolute best because a lot of students can make mistakes, and if we can teach them as much as possible and give them as much information as possible, it highly reduces their chances of coming back into the office."

According to St. John, half of the students that receive one strike do not receive another, proving the programs make a difference.

St. John applied to be a student judicial coordinator to give back to the JMU community. He said it is his, and should be others, number one priority to uphold community standards at JMU.

"I know that as an office we can come off as overbearing or authoritative, but for the most part, we're educational," St. John said. "We're here to get the best four years out of every student that they can have, and we help the students as much as possible."

Smoke signals

New hookah bar plans put on hold



LAUREN PACK/
art director

BY ASHLEY HOPKINS
news editor

Don't count your chickens just yet, hookah lovers — plans for a third Harrisonburg hookah café and kabob house were put on hold last week.

Set to stand at 1400 South Main Street, the property would have been located in an R-3 property zone, which is limited to residential and professional uses. As the café is considered a commercial business, it cannot operate at that location.

At the property owner's request, the Harrisonburg Planning Commission has written up an application to rezone the site, which would allow the retail business to set up shop. Despite these efforts Harrisonburg's senior planner, Adam Fletcher, said there may be more hurdles in the way.

"Even if they get their property rezoned, the space is still so small that they might not be able to meet parking requirements," he said.

The size of the property creates other problems as well. As there are set requirements on how much distance each building must maintain from its property lines, there might not have been enough room for the café.

The café was set to open as part of the Sireen Market Middle Eastern Food and Groceries store, which is currently operating on a minimal level due to its commercial purposes. If the city council approves the rezoning the grocery would not have to move, but if the request is denied it will have to move to a new location.

The store's owner, Taqwa Obaid has said that she was unaware of the zoning requirements when she opened the grocery store or started plans on the café.

FRUIT OF THE LOOM



AARON STEWART/
photo editor

Tara Kirkland, a junior art history major, works on a sample piece at a loom on the second floor of Duke Hall.

New apartments a possibility

BY JOHN SUTTER
contributing writer

Looking for a place to live next year? City Council will meet next month to determine if Harman Realty Inc.'s property on Stone Spring Road will be granted R-5 zoning status, opening up 1,054 new residential units for student housing.

The City Planning Commission voted 4-2 in support of the rezoning request. However, Adam Fletcher, the city's senior planner, said the change could cause conflict because of increased traffic and a current glut of affordable, apartment-style housing.

"[There are going to be] 700 vehicles in a peak

hour on a two lane facility," he said, adding that 7,000 additional cars would travel the road per day if a new apartment complex were built.

"It's not an increase in what was anticipated," Fletcher said.

There are plans to expand Stone Spring Road in the future, but the project will not start until 2009 at the earliest. The city plans to expand the road from two lanes to four lanes with a turning lane in the center.

"We didn't support rezoning because single family homes are developing adjacent to the property...and we didn't think that was the best use of the property," Fletcher said.

see APARTMENTS, page 3

MISSION

The Breeze, the student-run newspaper of James Madison University, serves student and faculty 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 its First Amendment rights.

The Breeze is published Monday and Thursday mornings and distributed throughout James Madison University and the local Harrisonburg community. Comments and complaints should be addressed to Mary Frances Czarsty, editor.

CLASSIFIEDS

How to place a classified:

- Go to www.thebreeze.org and click on the classified link or come into the office weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Cost:** \$5.00 for the first 10 words, \$3 for each additional 10 words; boxed classified, \$10 per column inch.
- Deadlines:** noon Friday for Monday issue, noon Tuesday for Thursday issue.
- Classifieds must be paid in advance in The Breeze office.

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POLICE LOG

BY KELLY CONNIFF/copy editor

Assault and battery

A JMU student reported being assaulted by an acquaintance at an off-campus location Jan. 24 at midnight.

Dangerous practices

A JMU student was charged with dangerous practices in the Mr. Chips area on Jan. 18 at 10:55 p.m.

Driving under the influence

A non student was charged with driving under the influence at the CISAT library on Jan. 21 at 6:45 p.m.

Drunk in public

A JMU student was charged with drunk in public and underage consumption of alcohol at Potomac Hall on Jan. 20 at 2:28 a.m.

A non student was charged with drunk in public at Chandler Hall on Jan. 18 at 10:55 p.m.

A JMU student was charged with drunk in public in the P-Lot on Jan. 19 at 1:51 a.m.

A non student was charged with drunk in public at the Godwin bus stop on Jan. 19 at 1:54 a.m.

A JMU student was charged with drunk in public at the Bridgeforth Stadium on Jan. 19 at 3:03 a.m.

A JMU student was charged with drunk in public, drunkenness and underage possession of alcohol at McGraw-Long Hall.

Hit and run

A JMU student was given warrant service for a hit and run and attempted felonious assault at the Festival service drive on Jan. 14 at 2:29 p.m.

Larceny

A JMU student reported the theft of license plates from the front and rear of a vehicle in the R2-Lot between Jan. 15-20.

Property damage

A JMU student reported \$150 damage to the windshield of a vehicle parked in the C-12 Lot on Jan. 18 between 5-6 p.m.

A JMU employee reported glass broken at the Festival bus stop that resulted in \$300 damage between Jan. 18-19.

A JMU student reported \$150 damage done to a window in Wayland Hall on Jan. 23 between midnight at 1:30 a.m.

A JMU employee reported \$25 damage to a strobe and speaker for the fire alarm on the 4th floor of Eagle Hall on Jan. 20 between 12:41 and 1:55 a.m.

Underage possession of alcohol

JMU students were charged with underage possession of alcohol in the P-Lot on Jan. 20 at 1:26 a.m.

Vandalism

A JMU student reported that a hallway in White Hall was sprayed with a fire extinguisher at an unknown date and time.

Number of drunk in public since Aug. 27: 66
Number of drunk in public at this time last year: 53

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Take back the night

Organizers plan concert to raise money for education on sexual assault and violence

BY KAYLA FLEMING
 contributing writer

The Women's Resource Center is hoping to triple its profits at this year's Take Back the Night Benefit Concert.

A disappointing sum was collected last year due to an unexpected snow storm.

"We didn't call it off and we kept receiving phone calls from our friends telling us they couldn't come," said Kristin Brady, Women's Resource Center student assistant and head of Take Back the Night.

Last year the concert brought in \$850. This year the goal is to raise \$1,500. The group wants to raise the money to fund the annual TBTN event scheduled for March 25.

The money raised will go toward booking speakers, such as the founder of 1 in 4, an organization that hopes to prevent rape on college campuses.

TBTN is a night dedicated to educating the community about sexual assault and violence. Its

mission is to provide a supportive and empowering environment for victims. There are candlelight ceremonies and guest speakers, as well as a speak-out, an opportunity for women and men who have been victimized to share their stories.

Last year's concert had bands perform, but this year the organizers took a new spin on the show by trying to involve the community.

"Sexual assault affects the whole community, not just one person," Brady said. "That's why we need to get community participation."

The concert will include performances by New and Improv'd, several a capella groups, the Breakdance Club and solo artist Kevin Elhiker.

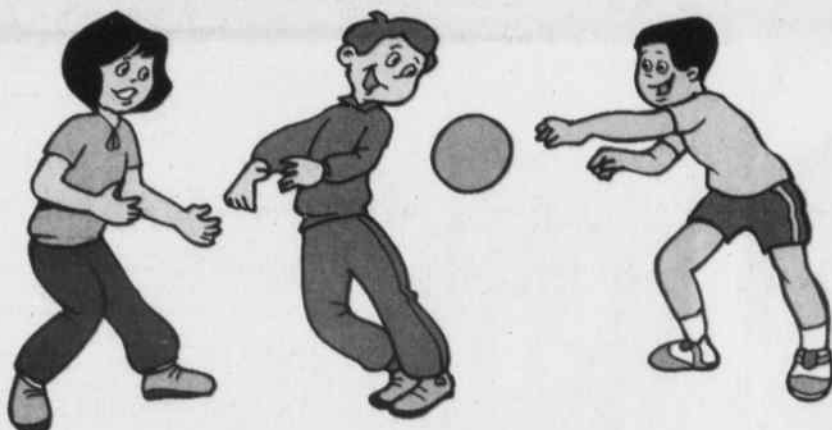
"We want it to be campus-wide, because [sexual assault] doesn't have a face," Brady said. "Sexual assault affects everyone, whether it's you or someone you know."

The Take Back the Night Benefit Concert is Tuesday, Feb. 5, at 7 p.m. in Grafton-Stovall Theatre. The show date for this event is Feb. 19 at 7 p.m.

At a Glance

- > The show is Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. in Grafton-Stovall Theatre.
- > Performers include New and Improv'd, Note-oriety, the BluesTones, Low Key, Exit 245, Madison Project, JMU Breakdance Club and Kevin Elhiker.
- > Tickets are \$3 in advance at the Warren Box Office or \$5 at the door.

Harrisonburg Boys and Girls Club working on plan to pay back city



BY ASHTON SMITH
 staff writer

Renovations to the building the Boys and Girls Club has called home for the past 17 years are proving difficult. The club is in the middle of negotiations with the Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority and the Board of Directors to come up with \$1.5 million.

The Lucy F. Simms Building, home of the Boys and Girls Club and formerly a K-12 school for black students prior to desegregation, is owned by the city. The Boys and Girls Club has been in the facility for a \$1/year since 1991.

"The building was failing mechanically and was in a state of disrepair by 2004 when the city and HRHA made the decision to secure [its] historical landmark status and renovate it at an estimated cost of \$5.5 million," said Heather Denman, the Boys and Girls Club executive director.

The HRHA informed the BGCHR that it needed to raise \$1.5 million to help pay for the renovation in exchange for a renewable 19-year lease.

The Association for Retarded Citizens of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County is also sharing the building, and was required to raise \$500,000 on the same terms. Denman said it was decided by space allocation.

"Approximately \$900,000 was to come from historical tax credits and the balance from the city," said Denman.

According to a Boys and Girls Club press release, in order to secure historical tax credits the building could

not be owned by the city for five years. A partnership, which included BGCHR and ARC, was established for the purpose of temporary ownership and management of the center. This qualified the city for the \$800,000 in tax credits.

HRHA secured a loan of \$2 million to complete construction. The Boys and Girls Club and ARC would be charged interest on the loan. The city provided a written guarantee saying it would cover the loan if the groups defaulted.

"If we couldn't raise all or part of the money we were told by HRHA we would 'work something out,' possibly a rental agreement," Denman said.

Now the BGCHR is working on a plan to show how it is going to raise the money.

"On Jan. 8, at the request of council, I provided a report on the progress of our campaign," Denman said. "My report to council was only that, not a request for funding. In fact, before I even made my report, council had approved paying the \$2 million loan."

The meeting was only the first of at least three to complete the plan and present a final copy to council.

Due to the lack of success from its first fundraising campaign, the BGCHR decided to change its strategy. This time the club worked with the Diversified Nonprofit Services to develop their strategy.

DNS was contracted for 30 months of help starting in 2003. They have agreed to stay on free of charge until the money is raised.

TAKING AIM



EVAN DYSON/senior photographer

Freshman biology major Diane Abadam takes aim Sunday afternoon in Taylor Down Under while playing pool with her friend, freshman studio art major Veronica Choi. In the billiards area, known as the Corner Pocket, students can check out cues and balls. For more information, visit jmu.edu/taylordownunder.

APARTMENTS: Harman Realty has no definite plans for property yet

APARTMENTS, from front

City Council will have the final say regarding the Harman Realty property next month. If approved, Harman Realty's Randy Harman said they would not build commercial facilities on the property because it would require a special permit.

Harman said they are tossing around ideas about what type of residential properties to build.

"We are not really prepared to talk about anything," Harman said. "We have got some ideas and dreams, but our plans are in the hands of City Council right now."

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

Glenn campaign comes to campus today

WHEN: Today, 7:30 p.m.
 WHERE: HHS 1302
 WHAT: Former Virginia Gov. Jim Glenn will make a campaign stop at JMU to speak to students. Questions will be taken from audience members following his speech. This event is hosted by the JMU College Republicans.

Foreign ambassador to visit JMU today

WHEN: Today, 11:15 to 11:45 a.m.
 WHERE: HHS 1208
 WHAT: Maltese ambassador to the United States, Mark Miceli-Farrugia, will speak informally to students, staff and faculty on U.S. - Maltese relations and the collaboration between JMU and the University of Malta.

ISA seeking culture show talent

WHEN: Jan. 29, 7:45 p.m.
 WHERE: Keenell Room 105
 WHAT: The International Student Association is having a meeting for those interested in participating in their culture show. Musicians, actors, singers, poets, dancers or performers with any talents are invited to attend. Contact jmuisa@hotmail.com with questions.

VIRGINIA TECH

Plant pathologist monitoring fungi

Virginia Tech plant pathologist David Schmale is using unmanned aerial vehicles in a three-year study to detect, monitor and forecast the spread of Phytophthora infestans, a fungus-like organism responsible for the Irish potato famine of 1840s. He plans to study how the fungus is transmitted through the atmosphere.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Capital Campaign raises big bucks

The UVA Capital Campaign, which was designed to raise \$3 billion by 2011, is half way to reaching its goal. \$1.6 billion has been collected since January 2004, placing the school on the same fundraising footing as private institutions, including Yale and Columbia, reported *The Cavalier Daily*.

WILLIAM AND MARY

Program receives \$1.5 million grant

The environmental science and policy program received a \$1.5 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to establish a Center for Geospatial Analysis and a postdoctoral program in the interdisciplinary environmental science program, reported *The Flat Hat*.

Pell grant awards to increase in '09

BY ANDY KWALWASER
Daily Illini

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — A new federal budget will increase next year's Pell grant awards, but not to the extent originally projected by the Education and Labor Committee.

The maximum grant value will increase to \$4,731, up \$421 from the current maximum award. Still, a budget struggle between the Appropriations Committee and the Education and Labor Committee caused the new grant to fall short of the \$4,800 originally possible.

"At least we feel that the conversation has moved forward," said Dan Mann, director of student financial aid. "It's an increase from what they've got now."

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, passed last December, limited the total funds available for distribution through Pell grants, a financial aid awarded to college students based on need.

"By having mandatory funding on one side, but discretionary funding on the other, there is no guarantee as to what the funding will be in a given year," said Alexa Marrero, minority spokeswoman for the Education and Labor Committee. "While we had authorized an amount based on an estimate, the Appropriations Committee assigned less mon-

ey than expected."

Congress was unwilling to fully fund the higher grants initially authorized by the Education and Labor Committee. As a result, the total funds available for the grants fall considerably short of the new maximum.

"There was stuff that made it look like we would have multiple year increases, but that went right out the window," Mann said. "This is a case where the intentions were good, but the funding was not there to support it."

Last year more than \$13 million in Pell grants was distributed to 4,726 University of Illinois students. Not all students are eligible to receive the maximum grant, although the increases will affect all awards next year.

Pell grants are considered discretionary federal spending, meaning that the Appropriations Committee can negotiate its value each fiscal year to match the new budget.

Elana Schuster, senior in communications and former Illini Media employee, has received a Pell grant in each of her four years at the University of Illinois but was never sure what each year's award would be.

"All I knew was I needed to fill out my (financial aid information) and pray really hard. I thought I would have to take out a few loans," Schuster said.

Poorer schools suffer at hands of Ivy Leagues

BY VALERIE STRAUSS
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Decisions by Harvard, Yale and other elite schools to make college more affordable to a larger pool of applicants might have the unintended consequence of harming less wealthy institutions and the students who attend them, some educators and financial aid experts say.

Yale University this month became the latest school with an enormous endowment to announce it was slashing prices for lower-, middle- and upper-middle-income families and substituting grants for loans. Harvard University announced a similar program in December, and since then, the moves have drawn praise and criticism.

Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa, ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, who had been pressuring universities to do more to make college affordable, applauded Yale and Harvard. But he chastised more than 60 other schools with endowments of at least \$1 billion that have failed to follow suit, saying they "are making church mice sound loud by comparison."

In his effort to force schools to use more endowment earnings for students, Grassley on Thursday joined with Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., the committee chairman, to ask 136 colleges to provide details about the growth of their endowments and whether that translated into more student aid.

Yet some university officials and higher education researchers said the new financial aid approach could force some schools to use more of their financial aid dollars to compete for the best middle-income students rather than to bring in the neediest. They also said that Harvard and Yale, whose prestige and wealth make them leaders in higher education, missed an opportunity to change the financial aid dynamic to benefit the majority of the more than 14 million college-bound students each year.

"The 99.95 percent of us who attend or work at other colleges have to deal with the agenda Harvard sets, but we shouldn't have to applaud or pretend we admire it," said Jonathan Burdick, dean of admissions and financial aid at the University of Rochester.

How to pay for college is controversial, with debates about how much financial aid is appropriate, to whom it should be directed and how it should be delivered. "Giving financial aid to families who make \$150,000 a year isn't going to solve the financial aid crisis," said Donald Heller, director of the Center for the Study of Higher Education at Pennsylvania State University.

According to the nonprofit College Board, about \$131 billion in financial aid was distributed during 2006-07 to undergraduate and graduate students in the form of grants, work-study, federal loans and federal tax credits

and deductions. Students still took out more than \$18 billion in loans from state and private sources.

Increasingly, colleges are using financial aid to attract the best students, rather than to help the neediest. The National Association of State Student Grant & Aid Programs found that states spent \$2.6 billion on aid programs with a merit component in 2005-06, an increase of 22 percent over the previous year. State spending on merit aid grew at a rate nearly four times higher than the amount spent on need-based aid in 2005-06, it said.

The need keeps growing because the cost of education keeps climbing. For the current school year, the College Board said that tuition for in-state, public four-year colleges rose 6.6 percent over last year, adding up to \$13,589 for tuition, room, board and other fees. The average at private colleges for undergraduate students was \$32,307.

That makes financial aid crucial in competing for good students. Some educators say schools with limited aid resources — including state universities — could be forced to convert need-based funds to merit aid to attract top students tempted by the financial packages offered by Ivy League schools. Cost will drive competitiveness more than ever, said Lee Coffin, dean of undergraduate admissions and enrollment management at Tufts University.

"If we are increasingly unable to fill our classes with the kinds of kids we want or historically had, we have to think, 'How do we use this resource in a more targeted way?'" Coffin said. "That's where you see the dollars start to shift away from the access piece. ... I think a lot of places are going to feel that pinch and are going to be forced to make some uncomfortable decisions."

Some critics of the moves by the elite schools noted that none of the recent proposals guarantee enrolling a set percentage of low-income students. They said they fear that widening the pool of middle- and upper-middle-class students at elite schools could cut the number of neediest who are accepted. At the most selective U.S. universities, 10 percent of students receive Pell Grants, federal aid open to families that earn \$45,000 and under, according to a study done by Heller a few years ago.

William Fitzsimmons, Harvard's dean of admissions and financial aid, said the school needed to do more for families with incomes between \$60,000 and \$200,000 because so much of the aid efforts had been targeted at the poor. He said that many middle-income students never applied to Harvard and that those who did attend did not enjoy a full experience.

"We feared that we were returning to the bad old days" when students who were not wealthy felt like "second-class citizens," he said. "Morally, I'm not sure we had a choice."

10th annual
ROC 2008
Reach Out Climb

February 16
9:30 am - 6:00 pm
Registration Starts at 8:30

Cost:

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\$18 before Feb. 11
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Reach Out Climb is a non-sanctioned, fun top rope climbing competition held at the UREC Climbing Wall.

All proceeds go to the Jared Neville Foundation, which is committed to protecting Western Virginia climbing sites.

UREC

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Volunteers (ages 18 to 40 years old) are needed for a study about asthma and the common cold. The goal is to improve asthma care. You must have asthma and not smoke. Screening will involve 2 visits (\$40 per visit). Based on the results, those who qualify can enroll in a 7-week study with payment up to \$1250. A 4-day stay in a hotel is an important part of this study. All study-related testing, medications and the hotel stay with room services are provided at no charge.

Screening near JMU, along with reimbursement for travel costs, will be available.

For more information and questions, please call or email.

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Economic endangerment

Between the Lines | PATRICK CALLAHAN, senior writer

So what's the plan?

“I'm beginning to believe sound fiscal policy is a thing of the past...”

Last week, on what many investors worldwide have been referring to as “Black Monday,” the global economy took the biggest hit it has faced since Sept. 11, 2001. Markets in Europe and Asia dropped significantly and all but one major exchange in the world experienced an overall drop as investors' confidence disappeared.

Economists were quick to attribute the falloff as being directly tied to the U.S. crisis involving subprime mortgage lending and its effects on the availability and strength of credit. Although U.S. markets were closed for Martin Luther King Day, Tuesday morning saw a storm of selloffs as trading opened and it seemed as if the United States would imitate the rest of the world in experiencing huge declines.

The Federal Reserve was not scheduled to meet just yet, but in light of the crisis, Chairman Ben Bernanke and other Federal Reserve leaders decided to immediately cut the federal interest rate by three-fourths of a point.

According to *The Washington Post*, this was the largest single-rate reduction in more than two decades. This should allow businesses and investors to more easily acquire credit, while allowing consumers to spend more using credit cards. The Federal Reserve has been consistently cutting rates over the past several meetings, but with fears circulating among global investors, the decision was made to drastically cut rates with all due speed.

Fortunately for the United States, we are able to make quick market decisions that can result in almost immediate effects. U.S. markets recovered significantly throughout the day after the cuts were announced, and European and Asian markets followed suit. Unfortunately, our legislative system does not allow for the sort of rapid response, which the Fed is capable of initiating.

Oddly enough, this financial crisis occurred as members of Congress were debating with the White House regarding an economic stimulus plan. The achingly slow-moving bureaucratic system means that even if a stimulus plan were passed tomorrow, it would be months before the capital it generated was injected into the economy.

The stimulus plan now being debated would provide tax rebates to single and married households at the lowest tax-paying level and would provide increases in unemployment benefits and food stamps for those below that level. The plan would also provide breaks for small businesses and investors so they would be free to invest more and free up credit.

In an act of rarely seen submission, President Bush took the reinstatement of his 2001 tax credits off the table. With the scattered remnants of his legacy left smoldering in the dying flames of a lame duck presidency, Bush moved toward securing shared blame with a democratically controlled Congress for the current economic crisis—and share the blame they shall.

With democratic presidential contenders having campaigned in South Carolina and lambasting their Congressional colleagues for being quick to agree with Bush's plan, the realization that our system is anything but a proactive one becomes more clear. The slow process of governing—which on any day can find a member of Congress voting against the best interests of the country based on his or her own re-election strategy—has reduced our government to a mere reactionary entity.

An effective economic stimulus plan would address the underlying problems of instability in mortgage securities and rampant predatory lending. Instead, our leaders will put cash in the hands of constituents and tell them to go spend it. In a nation with a notoriously disgusting national savings rate, is this not sheer misguidance? That money would be better spent paying off debt or saving for the next financial crisis—but “stimulus” and “tax rebate” are the words that rule the day.

I am beginning to believe sound fiscal policy is a thing of the past in our modern era. It is much easier to provide a short-term fix which may result in serious blowback than to pursue responsible economic policies that provide security for our economy well into the future.

With a major election around the corner, it is relatively simple to achieve “bipartisan” support—and all the lovely “work together for a common goal” rhetoric that goes along with it—for a bill that buys votes for incumbents and portrays a sense of “government to the rescue.”

Patrick Callahan
is a senior political science major.

Take advantage of interest rates

Homeowners received good news last week with the surprise interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve, which lowered the borrowing costs for millions of mortgage holders. As the rates continue to fall, now is the perfect opportunity for those with high adjustable-rate mortgages to refinance to a lower and preferably fixed-rate loan.

The key to surviving in a recession is to get ahead of the curve. In a few months, the government will announce the recession is official. Everyone else will panic, but if you follow my advice, you'll be resting easy.

Tony Spadaccia is a freshman political science and business management major.



The Real Story | TONY SPADACCIA, staff writer

Surviving the slump

Some ideas to save yourself from the recession

Last week the world's leading economists, policymakers and businessmen met in Switzerland for the weeklong World Economic Forum, and the news that came out of the meeting was not good. According to *The London Times*, experts at the forum have predicted that “a full-blown, prolonged recession in [the United States] is now inescapable, with the rest of the world set to be dragged into a severe global slowdown.”

But what does this mean for the average American worker? Will the job market and workplace become a no-holds-barred steel cage fight to the death? Not necessarily, but now is the time to prepare for the worst, since nothing is ever guaranteed in our economy.

The following tips will help you and your family survive the looming recession and you might end up better off than before.

Make yourself indispensable at work

The most important part of weathering a recession is to avoid losing your job, and the best way to secure your job is to make yourself stand out. After all, who gets laid off in a recession? The excess weight of the organization that is not essential to the company's future. Therefore, it is crucial that you embed yourself in the vital functions of the organization. To do this, take on the most important projects, volunteer to work on new initiatives and always go into work with a positive attitude. Do whatever you can to show your worth to upper-level management and they'll cower at the thought of losing you.

Network

Most people tend to wait until after they lose their jobs to start calling friends and family to look for new ones, which is obviously too late. In today's world, networking is one of the best things you can do to ensure that you will be able to quickly find a new job.

In a recession, employers are flooded with applications and résumés. Going through friends and family will help bypass the chaos and get straight to the decision makers. Networking will also give you a boost over your competitors who will likely be posting résumés on *monster.com*.

Minimize your debt and cut down expenses

In 2006, the U.S. personal savings rate was -1 percent, meaning that as a nation we spend more money than we make after paying taxes. When we spend beyond our means, we are forced to borrow money to make up the difference.

The people who tend to suffer most during recessions are the ones who have procrastinated in resolving their financial troubles, especially their credit card debt. The average American with at least one credit card has approximately \$9,000 in credit card debt and the average interest rate runs in the mid- to high teens at any given time. In the event that you lose your job, nothing will bury you faster than excessive credit card debt. The key to owning a credit card is moderation. Don't use it unless you know for sure that you can pay off the bill at the end of the month or soon after.

How can you minimize your debt? You can start by figuring out your spending patterns and identifying unnecessary expenses. Keep a list of all your expenses, debt obligations and personal income every month. Once you've done that, cut out the things that you don't absolutely need and direct that money toward minimizing your debt. Once your debt is under control, then start saving. Do yourself a big favor and start chipping away at your debt now; you'll be glad you did later.

Submit Darts & Pats online at thebreeze.org. Darts & Pats are submitted anonymously and are printed on a space-available basis. Submissions are based upon one person's opinion of a given situation, person or event, and do not necessarily reflect the truth.

Darts & Pats

An “if-you-can-afford-a-car-alarm, then-pay-my-rent” dart to the Stone Gate resident whose car alarm constantly goes off at all hours of the night.

From your neighbor who would rather listen to her roommate snoring than the 10 different sounds your car makes.

A “pull-ups-are-for-big-kids” dart to the girl on the drunk bus who couldn't hold her bladder or her bad attitude.

From the three Mill residents you rudely told to get off the bus, who hope you wet your skirt again.

A “you-shouldn't-have, but-I'm-glad-you-did” pat to the kind gentleman who helped me carry tons of eggs up the ISAT stairs for my class.

From a biology major who was thankful you unscrambled her view on college guys.

A “why-are-you-so-complicated?” dart to our roommate who got us sick because you refuse to take medicine if it's not organic.

From your roommates who think you should stop taking healing sprouts and charcoal tablets and try something that works.

A “you're-not-encouraging-membership” dart to a member of Kappa Alpha who told a passerby to “f--- off” when he wouldn't take a flyer from him on the commons.

From a junior who thinks you're just some boys and not a brotherhood.

A “feng-shui-this” dart to TDU, who will hopefully fix the mess that is the new furniture arrangement.

From a frustrated senior who finds it hard to relax in the comfy seats when they are right next to the espresso machines in Java City.

A “win-a-Super-Bowl, then-we'll-talk” dart to the Eagles fans on Route U, for getting everyone kicked off the bus because of your obnoxious chanting.

From a junior Redskins fan who can spell E-A-G-L-E-S and hopes that you can S-H-U-T-U-P next time.

A “we-just-wanted-to-say-Hallo, wij-ontbreken-jij” pat to all our friends back in Harrisonburg, and we hope you're living it up.

From everyone that's loving life in The Monty in Antwerp, Belgium.

A “you-light-up-my-life” pat to my neighbor who changed the light bulb on my porch so I wouldn't have to worry about getting in and out of my apartment at night.

From a junior who is thankful for your help because he's a slacker when it comes to things like this.

Breeze Perspectives | RACHAEL MCDANIEL, contributing writer

Television programming needs a reality check

I am probably one of the biggest fans of many reality series, including "America's Next Top Model" and "American Idol," but I am beginning to wonder how much more reality TV America can handle.

Some may know that the Miss America pageant aired Saturday. I thought it was amazing that the producers of this show actually took this formal, older-style pageant and revamped it by creating a reality show called "Miss America: Reality Check." This show ran before the pageant aired as a way to train the state finalists how to be the best Miss America.

It was interesting that the judges did not want the contestants to act like pageant girls who compete in the traditional Miss America contest. They taught the contestants how to walk, stand, act and dress in a more modern way instead of the traditional pageant style. They even gave them all makeovers in order to give them a new, updated appearance. In other words, the show was used as a way to modernize the Miss America contestants and pageant. It was not that the "Miss America: Reality Check" show was that bad, it just made me realize that all reality shows are alike. The Miss America pageant is completely changing the style it has held for years in order to compete with the rest of reality television. This is just one example of how many longtime shows are turning into reality shows.

A few years ago, "American Idol" seemed to be one of the only real-

ity shows. Its immense success made producers realize they could attract viewers with a simple formula for reality-like contests, and these shows sprung up all over television networks. The first reality shows were such a hit because they were original, but after about 20 of them,

“ I wish TV networks would start making some of the intriguing types of shows we grew up watching. ”

these shows began to become a little monotonous and uncreative.

I wish TV networks would start making some of the intriguing types of shows we grew up watching. I am sure many of you can remember getting so excited to see every episode of "Saved By the Bell," "Boy Meets World," "Friends" and other old-school type of shows. These

were cool shows that many of us followed through our childhood and teenage years. Most of these types of shows are now off the air or are bumped to inconvenient times to make way for new reality shows.

Many of the older shows had different story lines that made them unique, but reality shows seem like a copycat version of each other because they all have the same concept for success. First, a bunch of people come to try out for their spot in stardom. Second, a panel of judges or other decision makers narrow the selection down to the top finalists. Finally, they work through the weeks showing all the drama, and, after others get booted or voted off, a winner is selected.

The first couple of reality shows in the early 2000s were exciting because of their originality, but we need to start mixing up our programming so we don't get bored. I am still a huge fan of "American Idol" and "America's Next Top Model," but not every show needs to be cloned versions of each other in order to be a hit. I think if a show would break out of this reality mold then it could have potential to be a success.

I think it is time our society keeps a check on its television programming. We have so many channels today, and yet much of the programming seems to be the same. I think it is time networks threw in a little variety.

Rachael McDaniel is a senior SMAD major.

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Female a cappella group offers 'No Apologies,' first CD of the year

BluesTones album a little bit country, a little bit rock'n'roll

BY JACQUELINE QUATTROCCHI
contributing writer

The BluesTones, a female a cappella group at JMU, released their fourth CD Jan. 25, the first CD to be released by a JMU a cappella group in 2008.

The CD, *No Apologies*, has been in production for two years and offers a wide variety of music, including rock and country. Listeners are bound to find something they like.

"The BluesTones' ability to dip into so many different genres is something that makes the group so appealing," junior Bryce Nielsen said.

No Apologies includes songs such as Alanis Morissette's "Crazy," "Stuck" by Stacie Orrico and "Kiss Me" by Sixpence None the Richer, as well as music by less-

er-known artists like Nikkia Costa. The group has produced three successful CDs in the past: *On the Rocks* (2005), *Deja Blue* (2005) and *Just a Little Bit* (2000) and feel confident about this CD as well.

"We're expecting even greater things from this CD than the previous ones.

"We feel as if this is definitely our best sound and best work," said Rachel Tombes, president of The BluesTones. "We're so incredibly proud of this CD."

Compared to previous CDs, *No Apologies* was a chance for the ladies to try some different things. It's more offbeat and off-the-wall than the other three albums, and there's a higher energy, according to Tombes.

During the recording phase, the group added new members, resulting in a constant rotation of voices on the CD.

"[*No Apologies*] is contemporary a cappella, a combination of classical a cappella and pop," James Gammon said, owner of James Gammon Productions, which produced *No Apologies*. "It gives [listeners] the excitement of rock and pop, but still the pretty

blend of classical a cappella that's really pleasing to the ear."

Recording a CD is no easy task and The BluesTones put in many hours of hard work. The group traveled to Charlottesville to work with James Gammon Productions and recorded each part individually.

"It's a very time consuming and, at times, a very trying process," Tombes said. "We probably spent between fifty and sixty hours in the recording studio for this CD."

At the steep price of \$75.00 per hour, that's not cheap.

Once the recording process was complete, the separate layers were mixed together and sent back to the group for review. After that, it was time to design the CD cover. Unique to this CD, the girls designed the cover and did all the graphics themselves, something they are very proud of. Additionally, before the CD was finalized, the rights to every song had to be purchased. Sometimes that involves contacting the producer or the original artist, a process that can be

very difficult.

"You never really know if you're going to get the rights," Tombes said.

However, in the four years Tombes has been involved in The BluesTones, buying the rights to songs has never hampered CD production.

To promote the release of *No Apologies*, The BluesTones performed Friday night at TDU. Students crowded the room, cheering and shouting after each song ended.

"They have a lot of energy and a lot of movement, so you don't just go to listen to them, you go to see a performance," Nielsen said.

Although they were scheduled to perform from 7-9 p.m., the actual performance time lasted only until 7:52. Students yelled for an encore until the ladies filed back onstage for one last song.

Sophomore Mamie Sifen, a first time listener of the group said, "Being someone who isn't usually drawn to a cappella music, I was surprised by how much I liked them. I wish they would have performed until 9."

Exploring the sounds of JMU's past

Musical selections chosen for historical significance, faculty honor Madison's time

BY SARAH MOORE
contributing writer

With Valentine's Day fast approaching, the audience members of Saturday evening's performance of "In Madison's Time" were given plenty of ideas for lines to use to charm their loved ones this Feb. 14.

"Ah, you know it, dear soul, That far from you, I languish, Love causes hearts to ache..."

This verse from "Zeignung (Devotion)," composed by Richard Strauss and performed by baritone In Dal Choi and pianist Gabriel Dobner, both professors in the school of music, was the opening selection for the concert. JMU music faculty performed pieces that were, as the title suggests, composed or popular during James Madison's lifetime. The program also featured pieces by Bach, Beethoven and Rimsky-Korsakov.

"They were chosen on the basis of a theme," said JMU's Di-



rector of Orchestras Robert McCashin. "The pieces were to have come from the lifetime or the lifespan of Madison-the-person, or from the lifetime of or the span of James Madison-the-University."

The concert on Saturday was the first in a series of performances in honor of the Centennial. The second concert was on Sunday and featured a jazz group, music by Franz Schubert and American music by Aaron Copeland.

"I started meeting in a committee mid-to-late October," McCashin said. "Then I contacted the faculty [performers] at that time. Some of the faculty groups performing probably put this together in a fairly short time," he said. This wasn't a problem for them since they are "fine and talented musicians."

Professor of clarinet Janice L. Minor, who performed Rimsky-Korsakov's piece "Quintet in B-flat Major," played with the all-JMU faculty group the Montpelier Wind Quintet.

"We actually performed this piece at a recital in December," Minor said. "So a lot of practicing, a lot of individual parts and rehearsal."

She noted that they chose the music and purposely tied it in with the Centennial.

"They were probably listening to this in their parlors, the entertainment of music," she said.

The members of a string trio and the Montpelier Wind Quintet all took second bows for their performances, which were the audience's favorites.

"This concert was a required event for me because I'm a music major," freshman Kristopher Pourzal said. But he also wanted to come and support his professor, flautist Beth Chandler.

"I would want to hear her anyway for obvious reason," Pourzal said. "I really like the piece she played."

Other audience members, including freshmen Jung Kim and Philipp Kofler, said they favored the "Zeignung" piece.

For more information on events hosted by the JMU school of music go to jmu.edu/music.



CAROLINE DAVIS/staff photographer

Baritone In Dal Choi and pianist Gabriel Dobner (above) perform "Zeignung (Devotion)" composed by Richard Strauss. A string trio (above right) also performed during "In Madison's Time."

The music in JM-YOU

Six a cappella groups seek singers in week long search for top talent

BY BRETT WILSON
contributing writer

By 3 a.m. most students are tucked away in their extra-long twin beds, but James Madison's a cappella community is not composed of typical students. Last week a cappella groups held auditions for potential new talent, resulting in a very exhausting week for members.

The halls of the Music Building were filled with singers hoping to earn a spot in the BluesTones, Clear Cadence, Exit 245, Into Hymn, Low Key or the Overtones. This is a stressful time of year for these groups, but Rachel Tombes, president of the all-female BluesTones, says that auditions bring the tight-knit group of 16 girls even closer.

"It's a really fun experience, especially for the new girls accepted last semester," Tombes said. "They get to be on the other side of auditions now, and feel like they're a part of the group."

Auditions take place at the beginning of each semester so that the accepted students, commonly referred to as "noobs" in the a cappella world, can learn music and get to know the group before performances begin.

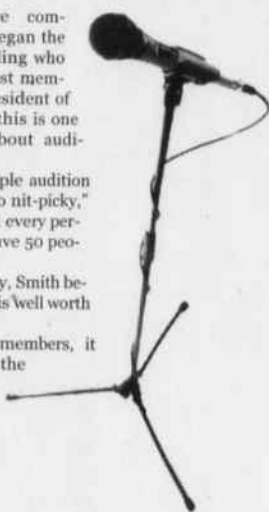
The process began with two nights of open auditions, held Jan. 22 and 23. Those auditioning were asked to sing a verse and a chorus of a song of their choice (a cappella, of course) and also perform vocal exercises to give group members an idea of their tone quality. Thursday, after first cuts, a number of singers were called back. Group members taught those auditioning a portion of one of their songs and conducted individual interviews.

Once callbacks were completed, group members began the complicated task of deciding who would become their newest members. Billy Smith, the president of Low Key, explained that this is one of the hardest things about auditions.

"So many talented people audition for us, and we have to be so nit-picky," Smith said. "If we accepted every person who could sing we'd have 50 people in the group."

But, at the end of the day, Smith believes that the deliberation is well worth it.

"When you get new members, it changes the dynamic of the group," Smith said. "You get a fresh start, and it brings back the fun, and there is a different kind of excitement."



Stallone dons the red bandana once again

Fans find newest Rambo flick reminiscent of action-adventure films of old

BY JUSTIN THURMOND
staff writer

With the success of his most recent movie, "Rocky Balboa," Sylvester Stallone returns to play one of his most beloved roles. However, "Rambo" is not just a desperate attempt to have Stallone tie on a red bandana again; it actually has meaning and relevancy.

Deep in the woods of Thailand, John Rambo lives a life of retirement catching snakes for money. When approached by Christian aid workers, Rambo takes them up the Salween River to a small Burmese village. They attempt to bring medical aid and religion to the Burmese people. Rambo warns the aid workers about the war that is going on but they insist on going to Burma, which leads them into captivity by

the Burmese army. Rambo then has to come to their rescue.

It's been 26 years since the now classic "First Blood" captivated audiences. Two more sequels were released after that, making sure that John Rambo would be etched in people's minds. Stallone, now 61, still looks good as John Rambo. He's received a lot of bad press for trying to hang on to his former self, but he looks better than ever.

Stallone also wrote and directed the fourth and final installment in the series. He understands the rhythm of an action movie. From start to finish this movie is non-stop killing. It's reminiscent of the days when Stallone, Schwarzenegger and Willis ruled the box office and the action-adventure genre. The only thing that is different this time around is that "Rambo" is more brutal than its predecessor.

This movie is based on real life events. In Burma there has been civil war for more than 50 years. Stallone sought to write about an issue that doesn't get the attention that it should. Granted, in real life Rambo doesn't come to the rescue, but the Burmese people are in great danger every day with no end in sight.

'Rambo'

★★★★

Starring Sylvester Stallone, released Jan. 25.

The Breeze
online exclusive:

Go to thebreeze.org to read a review of the Jan. 25 Sons of Bill concert at Rocktown Bar and Grill.

We've got talent, yes we do!

First annual talent show reveals jugglers, dancers, musicians, fun



BY JOHN-MICHAEL TRIANA
contributing writer

JMU revealed its skills on Jan. 23 as the Madison Student Giving Campaign hosted the first-annual "JMU's Got Talent" in Wilson Hall. The event celebrated 100 days until graduation and highlighted the organization's goal of getting students to make monetary donations to JMU.

"Essentially, we are an organization that is trying to get students in the habit of giving back to the university now so they will continue to as an alumnus," senior organization chair Maria Powell said.

The event kicked off with banter between hosts senior David Centofante and alumnus Mike Keith ('07). The pair had great chemistry that kept the crowd entertained between performances. There were 12 acts including singers, dancers and a juggler. All of the performers were unique and brought their own brand of talent to

the show. The winners were selected by judges Vice President of Student Affairs Mark Warner, senior Shannon Thatcher and Student Body President Lee Brooks.

First place went to Josh Vana, a sophomore justice studies major from Richmond who also works as an RA in Huffman Hall. Josh played an original song on guitar while simultaneously playing the harmonica. He even rallied the crowd to clap to his beat by stomping on the floor. Vana receives his musical influence from such artists as Ry Cooder, The Rolling Stones and Sonny Terry.

The second place winners were Amy Hilton and Steven Hughes, both of whom are seniors from Northern Virginia. Together the duo performed an original song, "Break on Through."

"Amy wrote the lyrics and I started messing around on the guitar and after a week of practice we were set," Hughes said. The song had a crisp, indie feel resembling John Mayer, mixed with catchy chords and beautiful vocals.

"We are just psyched to be up here with all these incredible acts and to get second," the duo said after the show.

Brian Gurney, a freshman English major from Manassas won third place. Gurney performed "A Love Song," an original solo he wrote and played. Gurney has already accomplished a lot for such a young artist. He has an album's worth of material and has performed on several occasions.

"I didn't know what to expect I just love to play and was excited to play," Gurney said.

The prize for the first place winner was a JMU fleece and coupons to the University Bookstore, while the second place winners took home gift baskets of DVDs, candy and soft drinks. The third place winner took home a JMU T-shirt and a Nathaniel Baker CD.

The show concluded with a stellar performance by the JMU Breakdance Club, who performed to Missy Elliot, Snoop Dogg and Sean Kingston.

And the winners are...

First Place- Sophomore John Vana performed an original song on guitar

Second Place- Seniors Amy Hilton and Steven Hughes performed an original duet, "Break on Through"

Third Place- Freshman Brian Gurney performed an original solo, "A Love Song"



Twelve acts performed Jan. 23. Among them were senior Holly McCarraher & junior Ashley Banek (left) who danced to "Apologize" by One Republic and junior Jared Shields (above) who juggled.

JESSICA DODDS/staff photographer

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McCarthy rejuvenating women's swimming

JMU coach Samantha Smith is building squad around freshman-laden talent and Delaware native

BY WES SHAW
senior writer

What a difference a year can make. Last year, JMU swimming was 1-8 in dual meets and finished ninth out of 11 teams in the Colonial Athletic Association championships. This year, the Dukes currently hold a 7-4 record with the newfound promise of success in the seasons to come.

Much of the improvement can be attributed to the funding the swim and dive team received over the past off-season. With the ability to recruit and offer scholarships to its athletes, the program has the ability to compete in the conference and look to a bright future.

This year's freshman class is the first step toward that turnaround. Morgan McCarthy leads a very talented young class, poised to return JMU to the top of the CAA.

"[McCarthy], along with her fellow classmates, is the beginning of a new era of JMU swimming," assistant coach Dane Pederson said. "Combined with the leadership we already have, they are providing a great base for us to build off of."

McCarthy is a backstroke specialist out of New Castle, Del. and has quickly become a crucial member of the Dukes' resurgence as the centerpiece of the class of 2011.

"It's really exciting. Our freshman class has brought in a lot of talent, but we really feed off of the upper classmen," McCarthy said. "They have a lot of talent and also a lot of heart, and they've really inspired us to have a real team atmosphere."

McCarthy was recruited heavily by JMU, while American, Bucknell, Colgate and Delaware also showed strong interest. She accepted a partial scholarship to become a Duke, and is one of JMU's first scholarship swimmers.

"I chose JMU because it was the best fit," she said. "I loved Coach [Samantha] Smith and thought she was really motivated, and I just loved how positive the team was."

From day one McCarthy impressed both her coaches and teammates with her strong work ethic.

"She's dedicated day in and day out," senior and captain Grace DeMarrais said. "When we go to meets she's the first person to get up and set the standard, starting off with a relay and setting the bar high."

"Her hard work and her day-to-day mentality make her a good athlete," Pederson said. "You don't feel great every day in this sport when you come to practice, but she works really hard and she's really dedicated in everything she does in and out of the water."

At St. Mark's High School, McCarthy was an individual state champion her junior year in the 100-yard butterfly and led a state champion team her sophomore, junior and senior years. This year she has recorded season-best times of 2:09.31 in the 200-backstroke, 59.68 in the 100-backstroke and 1:00.26 in the 100-fly. Against Delaware and VMI on Jan. 12, McCarthy recorded individual victories in the latter two, while finishing second in the 200-back. JMU won handily, 182-116 against Delaware and 237-4 over VMI.

Dominating wins like these were hard to come by last year, without such a strong young core.

"I think we're pretty important to that success just because of the talent. When you bring money in you get talent," said McCarthy, who has been swimming since age six. "But I also think us working together brings out talent in the whole team, not just the freshmen. A lot of



AARON STEWART/photo editor

Freshman Morgan McCarthy is looking to jumpstart a program that finished ninth in the Colonial Athletic Association championships in 2007.

upper class girls are getting faster just because they are racing against faster girls in practice."

For JMU, the money is crucial to the future success of the program.

"Money doesn't drive everything, but it definitely helps," Pederson said. "In the recruiting process, it's really hard when you don't have scholarships to offer. This just puts us on an even playing field."

JMU has wasted no time attracting top-quality swimmers in hopes of returning to the glory of winning three consecutive CAA titles from 1993-95.

"Definitely, I think they'll win [the CAA] in the next four years," DeMarrais said. "The freshman group flows really well together. They are such a dynamic group of women, and McCarthy is definitely very vital to the cohesiveness of that group."

McCarthy is just as positive. Both individually and as a future leader of her team, she feels the Dukes will only get better.

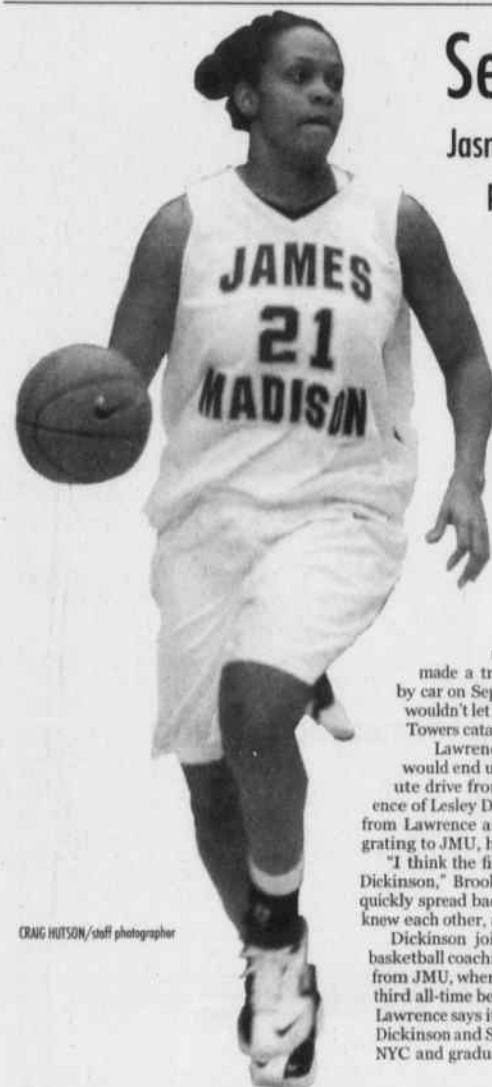
"I really want to be conference champion and I

really want to get an NCAA cut [before I graduate]," McCarthy said. "As a team we want to be conference champions within the next three years. We have a lot of hard work to do, but this team has a lot of heart and the ability to do it."

Her coaches and teammates share that same optimism, a sentiment that is sure to become commonplace within JMU swimming in the coming years.

"I think she's going to dominate all four years here. She's only going to get better, I think she'll have some records on the board by the time she's done," DeMarrais said, referring to the black board of school and conference records hanging on the wall of Savage Natatorium.

In the immediate future, McCarthy and the Dukes have the CAA championships in five weeks. For the upperclassmen, the conference is a chance to redeem their poor finish from last year. For the freshmen, it's a chance to show the rest of the CAA what JMU swimming has in store for them until 2011 and beyond.



CRAG HUTSON/staff photographer

Senior guard has 'soft wisdom'

Jasmin Lawrence sets bar for peers with versatile role on Coach Brooks' 12-6 team

BY MATTHEW MCGOVERN
assistant sports editor

She's part of the "pipeline" of players who migrated from New York City to James Madison to play women's basketball, but more importantly, she's a mentor to her teammates.

Queens native Jasmin Lawrence anticipated she would go to school in state because she wanted to stay close to home, but the presence of a couple acquaintances at JMU changed her mind. The senior guard made a trip down to Harrisonburg by car on Sept. 11, 2003 — her mother wouldn't let her fly because of the Twin Towers catastrophe two years earlier. Lawrence always thought she would end up at Hofstra University, about a 20-minute drive from Queens on Long Island. But the influence of Lesley Dickinson, who grew up five minutes away from Lawrence and started the trend of NYC players migrating to JMU, had its effect.

"I think the first New York kid that we got was Lesley Dickinson," Brooks says. "The success that she had here quickly spread back to New York, to the boroughs. They all knew each other, and it's really helped the pipeline."

Dickinson joined the University of Dayton women's basketball coaching staff on July 15, 2007 after graduating from JMU, where she scored 1,616 points. That makes her third all-time behind Meredith Alexis and Tamera Young. Lawrence says it was a "home atmosphere" playing with Dickinson and Shameena Felix, whom she also knew from NYC and graduated in 2007. She also played against ju-

nior forward Kisha Stokes and senior forward Jennifer Brown at city courts like "The Cage" and "The Rucker." Lawrence played against Stokes three years straight at Madison Square Garden for the city championship, from 2002-04.

In 2006, just her second season at JMU, Lawrence would have to replace one of her fellow New Yorkers at a critical juncture. Lawrence was asked to step up for a depleted squad after Dickinson tore her meniscus days before the start of the CAA tournament, and Lawrence responded by hitting a game-winning shot that sent JMU to its first conference title game since 2001.

While she was filling a shooting guard role then, this year she was asked to be the primary point guard after freshman Dawn Evans developed a stress fracture in her left foot. Lawrence is coaching herself to fill that role.

"My personality is so laid back that I kind of have to learn to be a little more aggressive," she says. "So at the point guard spot, I have to be a lot more vocal, which is a little bit outside of what I normally do."

But Brooks says that Lawrence adapted to her new role so well that he decided to name her captain mid-season. She joined Brown and senior forward Tamera Young, who were both named captains at the beginning of fall semester. Brooks had never named a captain mid-season before, but Lawrence has started all 18 games for JMU this season after starting only four games prior to 2007-08.

"She's done a fantastic job the last month or two of really helping the freshmen along," Brooks says. "And that's one of the reasons why I did something that I've never seen done, nor have I done it, when I named her captain a week and a half ago."

He says Lawrence offers "soft wisdom" instead of barking orders on the court, and calls her a "quiet leader." While she may not be the most vocal player on the court, she fills a unique role for many of her teammates who have come to rely on her for advice.

"She's kind of like a big sister to everybody," Stokes says. "Most of us on the team, if we have time we go to her for inspiration or just to get stuff off our chest."

Lawrence majors in justice studies and plans to move back to New York upon graduating in May. She looks up to two siblings, but isn't quite sure what her job aspirations are. Her 30-year-old brother is a police officer, and her 24-year-old sister attends Mercy College in New York, where she also pursues a justice studies degree.

“My personality is so laid back ... I kind of have to learn to be a little more aggressive.”

— JASMIN LAWRENCE
JMU senior guard

Durant and Towson beat JMU 73-64

JMU men's basketball dropped its fourth straight game Saturday at Towson.

Towson junior forward Tony Durant — the older brother of Seattle Supersonics star Kevin Durant — scored a career-high 20 points to lead the Tigers.

The Dukes (10-9 overall, 3-6 in the Colonial Athletic Association) trailed 36-34 at halftime, but shot 34.5 percent in the second half and committed 10 of their 15 turnovers in the final 20 minutes.

The Tigers (8-11, 4-5) built a 10-point lead midway through the half, but JMU hung around and cut the score to 62-60 on a pair of Juwann James' free throws with 2:36 remaining.

JMU was unable to hang on to the momentum of a then 7-0 run and Towson went on a 7-2 run of its own.

Sophomore guard Josh Thornton drained a three-point field goal after James' free throws to open the lead back up for Towson.

James finished with a game-high 23 points and junior guard Abdulai Jalloh scored 13, while ripping down 10 rebounds and dishing out six assists.

Jalloh shot just 4-for-18 and 2-for-8 from beyond-the-arc and only sophomore guard Pierre Curtis joined James and Jalloh in double figures.

JMU has lost six of its last seven games and eight of its last 11 since starting coach Dean Keener's fourth season 7-1.

Keener has been without junior forward Kyle Swanston for the past five games, after he suffered a knee injury in a loss at William & Mary on Jan. 9. Junior guard Joe Posey has also missed the last two games after being suspended indefinitely following a verbal altercation with assistant coach Louis Rowe during the 96-75 home loss to George Mason on Jan. 19.

—from staff reports

Women beat TU Sunday

Senior forward Tamera Young scored almost half of James Madison's points against Towson with her game-leading 29, and was the only JMU player that scored in double figures as the Dukes won 60-56.

Young also had 13 rebounds and shot 9-of-12 from the free throw line. She played the entire game, while JMU's next leading scorer, freshman center Lauren Jimenez, chipped in eight points. Madison junior forward Nina Ugdah had a game-leading 16 rebounds.

Senior guard Holly Mahan led Towson with 14 points and 13 rebounds. JMU improved to 12-6 overall and 5-2 in the Colonial Athletic Association, while Towson suffered its first CAA loss and fell to 14-4 and 6-1.

—from staff reports

This Week In JMU Sports

Wednesday, Jan. 30

— Men's basketball vs. William & Mary, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 31

— Women's basketball vs. George Mason, 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 1

— Women's tennis @ Old Dominion, 6 p.m.

— Men's tennis @ North Carolina, 7 p.m.


Saturday, Feb. 2

— Men's basketball @ George Mason, 2 p.m.

— Women's swimming vs. Richmond, 12 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 3

— Women's basketball @ William & Mary, 2 p.m.

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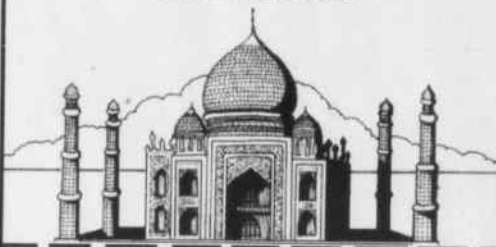
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I hate crossing streets - 41

Total votes: 91

Next week's online poll:

What do you think of the Miller Hall renovation?

Sudoku

6				8				2
		7	4		5	1		
		9	6		8	2		
7								1
		4	9		3	7		
		1	3		4	5		
8				2				7

Rules: Fill in the grid with the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 so that in each row, each column, and each of the three-by-three squares, each number appears exactly once. There is only one correct way to fill in the grid.

Difficulty: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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