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- Fall Festival @ Back Home on the Farm, 3 p.m.
- GameDay Kickoff @ the Quad, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday

- “College Gameday,” the Quad 9 a.m. to noon
- JMU football vs. Villanova @ Bridgeforth Stadium, 3:30 p.m.

Sunday

- The Mac and Cheese Off @ Turner Pavilion, 4 - 6 p.m.

UNSEEN HEROES
Professors offer Africana studies workshop

A NEW VIEW
JMU student has cornea transplant after returning from study abroad

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The Breeze is a student-run newspaper of James Madison University, serving students, faculty and staff 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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Visit our website to learn more at cofcu.org
Generating gender equality

New club makes its way to campus, empowers women

BY SHANNON MCCARTHY
contributing writer

Throughout the world, there are over 65 million girls without access to education. This is due to a variety of factors, including the inability to find proper transportation and cultural barriers. Girl Up was created by the U.N. 10 years ago to fight against this staggering statistic.

Girl Up aims to help spread awareness of gender-equality issues at home and around the world. With many celebrity endorsements like John Legend, Meryl Streep, Victoria Justice and more, Girl Up has gained much attention — and just made its way to Harrisonburg.

Mistire Kifle, a sophomore international affairs major, is currently in the process of bringing Girl Up to JMU.

Born and raised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Kifle has seen how these programs benefit not only girls, but the entire economy of developing nations. Although she didn’t personally witness any atrocities in Ethiopia, she’s heard about how dire the situation is in the rural parts of her home country.

“Girls have to walk to get water,” Kifle said. “They would get kidnapped, and get married and have babies at 13. Your life is ruined at 13. At 13 here, what are you doing? You’re going shopping with your friends.”

Due to her past experiences, Kifle wants students at JMU to realize just how important programs like Girl Up are around the world. She’s attended conferences where young girls tell their stories about how the program has impacted them. One girl, she remembers clearly, told the audience about how her life has changed since being able to have a bicycle to ride. Simple actions, such as access to a bike, have altered how girls around the world interact with society.

Kifle has been with the program since her junior year of high school. After seeing a Facebook post by Justice talking about working with the organization, Kifle decided she wanted to become involved with Girl Up. Her high school friend brought the club to her high school in Arlington, Virginia, and they started to host events throughout the year.

The process to start the club, however, proved to be challenging to Kifle. New organizations are chosen through a lottery system, and only 13 are selected at the beginning of each semester. Then, the clubs go through scrutiny in order to even be approved at JMU.

Although she’s facing these challenges, Kifle is still working hard with the headquarters of Girl Up to create events all throughout the year at JMU.

Kifle decided that this initiative was important, and that she should start to spread awareness — even without an official club to call her own. Her first event was on Wednesday — the International Day of the Girl is every year on Oct. 11 — which was held in partnership with the foreign service fraternity Delta Phi Epsilon.

Peggy Bronzi, a senior international affairs major, is the philanthropy chair for DPE. After being contacted by Kifle, DPE decided to take action and help Girl Up in its campaign.

“DPE is a group of internationally minded individuals who strive to serve the local and global community in any way possible,” Bronzi said. “Promoting the U.N.’s Day of the Girl aligns with our service mission; we are serving the international community by raising awareness of the U.N. Day of the Girl on our own campus.”

DPE and Girl Up partnered for the event, and it was used to celebrate girls from across the globe as a way to unite people from all corners of the world. (Another) reason we partnered with Girl Up is because our presidents recalled the time when DPE was a growing organization trying to make its mark on JMU,” Bronzi said. “We were grateful to those who helped us along the way and wanted to pay it forward by being Girl Up’s stepping stone.”

DPE and Kifle created a social media campaign called #GirlHero. This campaign was designed to inspire women of all ages by showcasing that society needs to recognize the contributions of girls.

“It’s important to get in touch with people that are facing the problem directly,” Kifle said.

The event, which was a social media campaign, had students from various places around campus to unite students in this campaign. There was music playing in the background, and people dancing around to the songs. Two photographers were present, taking pictures of students who shared their heroes.

There were many participants from various organizations. Freshman Nancy Lazo is a psychology major who helped organize the event on behalf of Girl Up. She’s been involved with the campaign since her high school days, and was excited to see the success of the event.

“A lot of them seem to like the idea of what we are doing, and what Girl Up stands for,” Lazo said. “[The reception] seems pretty positive so far.”

Within an hour, there were about 20 people who had taken pictures. Many people cited historical and cultural heroes for their #GirlHero. Some people had their mothers, but Lazo’s was a more recent icon. The photos can be found on both DPE and Girl Up’s Facebook pages.

“Malala Yousafzai is my hero,” Lazo said. “She fought for her education, she almost got killed for it and she continues to fight for it. She’s amazing.”

Estefani Flores, a senior international affairs major and historian for DPE, is trying to extend the event to include everyone — not just girls.

“We are trying to encourage guys to do it too,” Flores said. “To say their mom or whoever they admire.”

Having engagement from everyone is important. Statistics that DPE and Girl Up provided showed that women and girls reinvest 90 percent of their income into families and communities, compared to only 30 to 40 percent from men.

Kifle said that there’s a culture in developing countries where women aren’t given access to education, because they’re not considered equal to men in society. Kifle states that people in the United States and elsewhere need to use their voices in order to help empower these women.

“We have a voice, and they don’t,” Kifle said. “No girl in the developing country has a platform where they can talk about her issues. We have clubs and initiatives where we can talk about these things.”

CONTACT Shannon McCarthy at mccartsl@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.
Local politicians are putting together their final campaign efforts with the Virginia statewide elections less than a month away. The elections will decide Virginia’s new governor, representatives for the House of Delegates and a number of other statewide and municipal positions.

The seat for the 26th district in the House of Delegates, which includes Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, is being contested for the first time since a special election in 2010. Republican Tony Wilt won that 2010 vote, and is now being opposed for the first time in seven years.

“I’m ready for the election to happen,” Wilt said. “I’m feeling really good, I’m getting a lot of positive feedback.”

Wilt is focused on job creation, bolstering the local economy and addressing laws or business regulations that hinder economic growth.

A key method of Wilt’s campaign has been going out and talking with people face to face, trying to establish personal relationships.

“That’s what’s made me successful as a legislator, is being out and dispelling that idea that some folks have that an elected official is unapproachable,” Wilt said. “Maybe some are, but I’m not.”

Democrat Brent Finnegan will challenge Wilt for the 26th district seat. Finnegan is currently on the planning commission for Harrisonburg City.

The Finnegan campaign is running on a platform of expanding Medicaid and trying to provide healthcare for all Virginians, as well as making sure Harrisonburg has adequate state funding to build a new school.

He said he’s been enjoying the campaign process so far.

“It’s been exhilarating,” Finnegan said. “It’s been great to get out and meet people and hear different perspectives on what’s important to people that live in the Shenandoah Valley.”

After seven years with the same delegate, Finnegan said it’s time for someone else to step up and bring something new to the table.

“This is about giving voters a choice,” Finnegan said. “This is about presenting bold, new ideas to solve the very serious issues that we’re facing in the Commonwealth.”

Democrats in Harrisonburg just opened a new office downtown earlier in the month. Kai Degner, Finnegan’s campaign manager, said the office will greatly benefit the Finnegan campaign.

“Right now, the most important thing is to come to the office and get a list of people to contact,” Degner said. “That’s how we win this election is grassroots word of mouth. So the focus between now and Nov. 7 is to motivate as many people as possible to go vote.”

Republicans opened their office on Neff Avenue this past summer. The office provides a place for organizing campaign materials, phone banking and campaign workers — including Wilt’s campaign manager — to operate.

“It gives them a home base, for one thing,” Dan Cullers, Rockingham County Republican chair, said.

Because of his position, Cullers works with volunteers who want to help campaign efforts. He says the work they’ve put in could have a major impact.

“We have reached out to thousands and thousands of voters to let them know that we have these good Republican candidates, and I think it’ll make a big difference on election day,” Cullers said. “People need to see that there are people willing to dedicate their time to these efforts.”

Cullers said Harrisonburg was once a Republican city. Now he said he thinks it may be a mix of Democrats and Republicans. Degner has seen a shift as well.

“People understand that we can’t sit on the sidelines anymore and expect the right people to get elected,” Degner said.

Wilt said he’s seen a gradual move by Harrisonburg to the left, but he said he’s confident in what his party is doing.

“The conservative Republican party is starting to get their voice back [in Harrisonburg], and say, ‘Hey, we need to stand up and be participants in the operations in the city again,’ Wilt said.

Despite the trends, both parties feel that the most important thing to do is to get people to go out and vote.

“We’re just going to focus on reaching out to voters,” Finnegan said. “Making sure that people know there’s an election, and know that they have a choice this year.”

CONTACT

Thomas Robertson at rober3tl@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.
ESPN COLLEGE GAMEDAY
ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS

THURSDAY (10/12)

5:30 pm ESPN College GameDay bus arrives at Wilson Hall. Come welcome them, rain or shine!

FRIDAY (10/13)

8 am - 5 pm ESPN will air live spots from campus throughout the day. Sponsors will have games and activities on the Quad.

12 pm JMU students are allowed to start lining up to reserve their spot in The Pit. **Students are allowed to stay overnight on the Quad, but tents and coolers will NOT be permitted.**

3 pm ESPN records **College Football Live** from the Quad.

SATURDAY (10/14)

5:30 am The first 500 students in line with a valid JACard get a wristband to access The Pit.

6 am Parking lots on campus open.

6:30 am The Pit opens for wrist-banded students. No bags allowed in the pit.

7 - 9 am The ESPN College GameDay DJ performs on the Quad.

9 am - Noon ESPN College GameDay show goes live from the Quad.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- Many dining halls on campus will have extended hours.
- Signs are encouraged, but no derogatory, vulgar, or political messages are allowed.
- No bags allowed in the pit.
- Ticketing and towing of unauthorized vehicles from reserved lots will begin at 5 am on Saturday morning.
- Tailgating on game day is only permitted in parking lots at approved times. Tailgating and coolers of any kind will not be permitted on the Quad.
By THOMAS ROBERTSON
The Breeze

This fall, a new workshop showcasing work in Africana studies from professors, visiting scholars and graduate students debuted on campus. Formed by various faculty members from the English department, the workshop will provide a way for different faculty and students to give feedback and collaborate on this work.

One of the founding faculty members of the Africana Literatures and Cultures Workshop, Mollie Godfrey, is an assistant professor of English at JMU who specializes in African-American literature. She said that now was a great time to form a workshop like this one.

“We suddenly realized last year that we had a kind of critical mass of people working on Africana literatures,” Godfrey said. “We wanted to do something to kind of publicize it.”

With the prominence of race relations and racial justice movements like Black Lives Matter being so high in today’s political climate, Godfrey said she’s seen growing interest from students as well.

“I’ve definitely seen an enormous amount of enthusiasm in my own classes,” Godfrey said. “[There are] people who are obviously wrestling with what’s happening in the world all around them and looking for ways of understanding it.”

One of the faculty members working in the field is Brooks Hefner, who spoke at the first ALCW on Sept. 29. Hefner is an assistant professor of English at JMU and is currently on sabbatical, researching specific fictional heroic serial characters of the 1940s and early 1950s.

The focus of Hefner’s research comes from one specific nationally distributed black newspaper — The Baltimore Afro-American — commonly called The Afro. Hefner noted how the heroic characters in this paper served as a stark alternative to the hero pulp magazines that paved the way for popular, new comic books. Hero pulps are similar to comic books, but are usually longer and contain more text. They were also printed on a lower quality wood pulp paper from which the medium derives its name.

The hero pulp genre was largely dominated by white writers during Hefner’s period of interest, and almost all of them included a white hero who cleaned up city streets full of thugs. The stories published in The Afro featured black heroes who fought against Nazis and racial injustice in the American South.

“I’ve studied pulp magazines for a long time and was always a bit puzzled as to why stories by or about African-Americans did not appear in pulp magazines, really at all,” Hefner said. “I knew that African-American readers were out there, so I was trying to answer the question, ‘What were they reading?’”

Hefner’s book, titled “Black Pulp,” debuted at the ALCW. Faculty as well as students gave much-appreciated feedback to Hefner.

“We want students to be involved in a dialogue about these questions and these topics,” Hefner said. “So the more involved, the better, I think.”

Multiple students attended the first ALCW. The workshop gave them a chance to not just receive a lecture from their professors, but also to provide their input and suggestions on the work shared by faculty.

“I think that that’s a really critical part of education in general, but also especially higher education,” Charles Holmes, a senior biology major, said. “We come to this learning environment to learn together, and I think that that’s a great part of at least how Hefner ran that literary workshop.”

The ALCW will have its next workshop Oct. 20, and will feature work by Johnathan Gray from John Jay College.

“We’re going to have some amazing, amazing work coming through the workshop,” Godfrey said. “I’m hoping it’ll be a really vibrant space for conversation.”

CONTACT Thomas Robertson at rober3tl@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.
A furry friend for school

TESS GIBSON | the art of noncomformity

I’m the biggest animal lover you’ll ever meet. Having grown up in the country, my childhood consisted of acquiring many pets: bunnies, peacocks, chickens, lizards, birds and the usual cats and dogs. I started volunteering at my local animal shelter at age 11 and my family still fosters kittens at least five times throughout the year. Needless to say, I’ve always had animals.

So before moving into my dorm freshman year, leaving them was one of the biggest downfalls of leaving home. But aside from my future as a cat lady, my pet-friendly background is relevant. Although I completely understand the desire to own a pet after having them all my life, even I wouldn’t want those responsibilities while currently enrolled in classes.

In saying that, let’s look at some factors regarding costs. The amount of money you would spend varies greatly depending on the type of pet and their needs. From a guinea pig to a golden retriever, the necessities are quite diverse. Typically cats and dogs are the most popular pet to own, so looking at annual costs for the first year with them, we see why price is a big factor in making the decision of whether or not to be a pet owner.

In “The Annual Cost Of Pet Ownership” by David Weliver, it’s estimated that for dogs, including medical exams, spaying or neutering them, food, leashes, etc., the total after a year comes to $1,270, and for cats the amount is $1,070. Now, I don’t know about you, but as a college student I don’t really want to be spending over a thousand dollars on litter boxes and training classes.

There are already so many necessities to living on your own that require a big chunk out of your bank account: groceries, gas, club events, school supplies and so on.
Then again, it’s not all about the money. We have to look at the time commitment and attention requirements for our pets as well, because your fluffy pal will rely on you like you’re their entire world — because you are. Don’t just take my word for it, Jenny Kim, a senior psychology major, has had her puppy Kyser for almost a year now and still struggles with this.

Kyser is a $850 yorkie shih tzu, which was given to Kim by her brother as a birthday gift last October. She says the reason he decided to get her a puppy was “to extend or greater my responsibilities than usual as part of me learning to grow as a person, while also having a furry little friend I can count on anytime — especially for the cuddles.”

To me, the difference between cuddling a teddy bear versus a warm and soft animal companion isn’t even comparable — as I’ve said before, crazy cat lady. But with the good also comes the not-so-fun aspects. While Jenny does claim that having Kyser has helped her relieve stress and adjust to stepping toward adulthood, he can take a toll on her social and academic life at times.

She explains, “the downside of having a pet during school is having to come home every several hours to take your dog out to use the restroom, taking it out on walks, feeding, etc.” and adds that, “making plans have been slightly tough since being gone for long periods of time in a day cannot be made or would also influence my studying habits by preventing me to go to the library for long hours.”

From the money to the time involved in maintaining a healthy and happy environment for your animal during college, waiting until your senior year or even graduation may be your best bet. And although there are lower-maintenance pets to own like rodents or even fish, there’s still certain responsibilities that come with any pet. The biggest variable that should be considered is the quality of life one can give their animal. If waiting an extra year or two to pick out a companion makes for a better situation for not only you but your animal as well, then the saying “good things come to those who wait,” can be best applied here.

Tess Gibson is a sophomore writing, rhetoric and technical communication major. Contact Tess at gibson10@dukes.jmu.edu.
The beauty that can be encapsulated through the arts has, throughout history, propelled itself forward in the form of remarkable human expression. Such art has provided people with a necessary outlet to unleash their creative passions. This has, at times, produced such remarkable human expression that, at its peak, has stood the test of time.

Yet, recent generations are less interested in the in-person art experience for its general entertainment or educational potential than those of past generations. The dramatic decline in those seeking art degrees reflects the expansion of entertainment interests toward electronic-based options and educational ones toward art-less STEM — which seeks to educate America’s youth with the focus resting on science, technology, engineering and math.

The reality is that electronic substitutes for the in-person art experience are false replacements, lacking the ability to present the full power of art as it occurs in its live form. It’s for this reason that the booming streaming industry — despite being able to provide entertainment easily and quickly — shouldn’t be used as a replacement for live theatre, dance and music. There’s no substitute for seeing actors traverse the stage, with every movement being so much more real than on a screen. This was made clear to me last week when — curious to better understand the performing arts abilities of JMU students — I entered Forbes Center to view the student-performed play “Bridge to Terabithia,” and was reminded of the magic found in theatre. Similarly, there’s no replacement for the remarkable skill required by an orchestra to perform in harmony or for dancers to float across the stage with such extravagant ease.

“Bridge to Terabithia,” and was reminded of the magic found in theatre. Similarly, there’s no replacement for the remarkable skill required by an orchestra to perform in harmony or for dancers to float across the stage with such extravagant ease.

There’s simply no electronic substitute for such art. The arts, however, are beneficial in far more ways than those based solely on entertainment value, as has been recently proven through numerous neurological studies. These studies have overwhelmingly concluded that the creative benefits of engaging in art provide a remarkable opportunity in improving the parts of the brain that operate the creative abilities of a person. With such creativity decreasing in recent years among Americans, the well-known STEM education movement has been recently altered by those concerned of this decline to STEAM — science, technology, engineering, arts and math — with art now sharing in the important educational focus of the other fields. This notion is wonderfully captured by the words of former education secretary under the Obama administration Arne Duncan, who stated that “the arts can no longer be treated as a frill … Arts education is essential to stimulating the creativity and innovation that will prove critical for young Americans competing in a global economy.”

Returning to our roots as lovers and students of the arts provides real benefit to the economic power of this country. Doing so also improves our ability to tap into that special part of humanity that has, throughout the generations, been so wonderfully captured by the arts.

Dan Ford is a senior international affairs and international business double major. Contact Dan at forddm@dukes.jmu.edu.
GAME DAY BUS SERVICE

GAME DAY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE BEGINS TWO HOURS PRIOR TO KICK-OFF, THROUGHOUT THE GAME AND APPROX. ONE HOUR AFTER GAME ENDS

COLOR KEY
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- Red Line
- Green Line
- Purple Line
- Blue Line
- Yellow Line
- Pink Line

HOTELS
- Days Inn
- Candlewood Suites
- Comfort Inn
- Country Inn & Suites
- Courtyard Marriott
- Fairfield Inn & Suites
- Hampton Inn (Covenant Dr)
- Hampton Inn (University Blvd)
- Holiday Inn Express
- Double Tree
- Quality Inn
- Microtel Inn & Suites
- Motel 6 (Linda Ln.)
- Ramada Inn
- Motel 6 (South Main)
- Residence Inn
- Sleep Inn & Suites
- Super 8

STUDENT COMPLEXES
- Campus View
- The Commons
- Copper Beech
- Fox Hill
- Hunters Ridge
- The Mill
- North 38
- Pheasant Run
- Port Rd @ Royal (Across from R-10/R-11 Lot)
- R-10/ R-11 Parking Lot
- South View
- Squire Hill
- Stone Gate
- Sunchase
- The Harrison
- Aspen Heights
- Overlook
- Charleston Townes
- The Retreat
- The Pointe

CAMPUS PARKING (PRE-GAME)
- C3 (Cardinal House)
- C5 (Cardinal House)
- C10 (Phys/Chem)
- C11 (Festival)
- C12 (Festival)
- D2 (Phys/Chem)
- D3 (Festival)
- D6 (Festival)
- R1 Cardinal House
- R4 (University Plaza)
- R5 (University Plaza)
- R-10/ R-11 Parking Lot

CAMPUS PARKING (POST-GAME)
- C3 (Cardinal House)
- C5 (Cardinal House)
- C10 (Phys/Chem)
- C11 (Festival)
- C12 (Festival)
- D2 (Phys/Chem)
- D3 (Festival)
- D6 (Festival)
- R1 Cardinal House
- R4 (University Plaza)
- R5 (University Plaza)
- R-10/ R-11 Parking Lot

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Generation gap year

Exploring the different options after college and why traveling is a recommended choice

HANNAH ROBINSON | contributing columnist

As college students, we’re at a time in our lives where nothing makes sense. Our once solid set of ideals have seemed to fall apart sometime within the last four years, while new thoughts and opinions are exploding into a million fragments of kaleidoscope-like pieces.

And we’ve all probably thought about changing our major at least 20 times. We’re told that this is one of the most crucial times of our lives — a time when one mistake can throw off the course of all of our promising plans. From a young age, we’re conditioned to believe that our lives should have a certain kind of structure. Society sets up a blueprint for us to follow: high school, college and then 9-to-5 office jobs.

I’m not saying that this blueprint is bad, or that this is something that you shouldn’t want. What I’m saying, however, is that if you don’t want it, that’s OK too. An gap year is defined as ‘a period of time, usually an academic or calendar year, in which a student takes a break from school to travel, work, or volunteer, typically after ending high school and before starting college’ The idea of taking time off, either before college or after, is one that’s extremely prevalent in Europe, and gaining traction in the U.S. Malia Obama had thousands of young people reconsidering their college plans when she decided to take one year off before attending Harvard in the fall of 2017. She may not have gotten any slack for her decision to travel and explore before she dedicated herself to a rigorous work load, but the rest of us sure do.

Breaking from the mold has always been seen as an act of rebellion, but breaking from the mold is exactly what we need to be doing. I remember graduating from high school not knowing whether I was ready for the big leap into college or not. My fears and concerns were duly drowned out by all the excitement surrounding the college acceptance letters finding their way to my mailbox.

Admittedly, I would have benefited significantly from taking a year to learn more about myself before I jumped headfirst into a new experience. I made that decision based on other people’s expectations of what my next step should look like — not from my own desire. Now, as I find myself in my senior year, wondering what comes next, the thought of a gap year is once again calling to me.

Many people think that taking a gap year after school would reflect poorly on a resume or suggests a lack of motivation or drive. The name itself suggests an absence of some kind.

Abigail Falk, founder of Global Citizen Year, takes the word and revises it. She takes the word gap and swaps it out for bridge, which implies a ‘deliberate connection between one stage of life and the next’. If you were an employer looking to hire an innovative and dynamic new employee, the prospect of an independent risk-taking 23-year-old, who took a year to figure themselves and the world out would certainly spark your interest.

This is how we should be looking at it. In your twenties, there’s so much uncertainty and confusion. We shouldn’t be forced into a job that doesn’t fulfill us, before really discovering our potential and how big this world really is.

As long as you’re alive, you’re going to feel confusion and doubt and this fact should excite you instead of frighten you.

Hannah Robinson

Traveling is proven to expand our horizons and create more open-minded individuals. Taking a year to step out of your comfort zone after four with your head stuck in the books and hands typing away, would do the soul some good. Studies have shown that students who have traveled abroad are nearly twice as likely as their home-bound peers to earn higher incomes, out-earning their peers by more than 60 percent. A gap — I mean bridge year — doesn’t have to just be for traveling. You could take this time and pick up a new skill — learn to be a bartender, or get your pilot’s license. Go out there and discover any new skill or hobby that allows you to see the world differently than you have previously.

You may be reading this about to take the next step after high school or you may be thinking about what comes after college. Either way, I want to tell you that it’s okay not to know what you want to do or who you want to be. Life is about finding those things out, and sometimes you have to take a year off to really start learning. However, what I’ve discovered is that through all this uncertainty comes a kind of hope. As long as you’re alive, you’re going to feel confusion and doubt and this fact should excite you instead of frighten you.

Uncertainty means that there’s something to be unsure about. The word itself promises a tomorrow full of adventure and opportunity; and that’s something to cherish.

I was talking to my grandmother one day and she said something that I’ll never forget. She told me that instead of thinking about my future as being uncertain, I should think of it as unwritten. How fantastic is that. The idea that you have countless paths to take, endless days to seize and infinite chapters to write in your story suddenly makes the unknowns in life less daunting.

The moment my grandmother passed that golden nugget of wisdom to me, I began to see my fears and burdens in a new light. I realized that this is indeed the time to make mistakes and take chances. The world is at your fingertips, and a gap year allows you to finally reach out and grab it.

Don’t be afraid to break from the mold and step outside of your comfort zone, because what you find outside of it just might be yourself.

Hannah Robinson is a senior communication studies major. Contact Hannah at robinshl@dukes.jmu.edu.
23rd
9 a.m. - 9 a.m. Facebook
Homecoming 2017 Banner Contest Voting begins!
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. TDU Commons Rain Location MU Ballroom!
4:30 - 8 p.m. Ehall
Purple and Gold Spirit Dinner

25th
5 - 7 p.m. Hillside Field
Purple Out!

27th
3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Dog Pound Window
Farewell to the Phillips Center
5:00 - 7:00 p.m. The Quad
Quad Fest
7:00 p.m. Wilson Hall
Homecoming Step Show

24th
Find the JMU Letters All Day Campus

26th
D-Hub Tailgate 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. Lot R1 next to Dhub
8th Annual Nightmare at UREC 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. UREC
Late Night Breakfast 10 p.m. - 12 a.m. E-Hall

28th
Lessons in Leadership 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. UREC MAC 3
Football Game 3:30 p.m. Bridgeforth Stadium
Homecoming Step Show Doors open - 7 p.m. Show - 8 p.m. Wilson Hall

HOME COMING
YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS
Child survives hate crime hanging

JAZMINE OTEY contributing columnist

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter," Martin Luther King Jr. once said.

On a warm summer evening in late August, a group of young boys in Claremont, New Hampshire, gathered to play in a backyard. On the outside, many would describe the interaction to be innocuous, nothing but a group of boys having a bit of harmless, summer fun. However, shortly thereafter, mundane objects such as a picnic table and a tire swing nearby would become tools for what family members of a victimized biracial boy claim to be a "racially motivated near-hanging."

The summer night took a disastrous turn when teens at the gathering started devising 8-year-old Quincy Merlin with racial slurs as they threw sticks and rocks at his legs, the boy's family alleges. The Valley News reports that following this, the teens stepped on a picnic table and grabbed the rope from a tire swing.

"The [teenagers] said, 'Look at this,' supposedly putting the rope around their necks," Lorrie Slattery, the boy's grandmother, said in the report. "One boy said to [her grandson Quincy], 'Let's do this,' and then pushed him off the picnic table and hung him."

Alarmed, Quincy's 11-year-old sister screamed for help as her brother kicked his feet and grabbed his neck. Luckily, he was able to escape the binds of the rope.

According to the report, there were no adults present during the incident. The details of that night were provided by the grandmother who gathered information from Quincy and his 11-year-old sister, who found Cassandra Merlin, their mother, after the attack.

The New York Times states that after images circulated throughout social media of the boy'spureness as they created psychological scars analogous to the ones on his neck.

Racism has always been a recurring problem within the U.S., but since the election of Donald Trump, hate crimes have seemingly increased. In fact, based on a Huffington Post article, the U.S. has experienced its first annual increase in crimes regarding race, religion, sexuality, disability or national origin.

"There are likely multiple explanations for 2016's rise in hate crimes, including particularly sharp and widespread bigotry against particular communities like transgendered and Muslims and the emboldenment and mainstreaming of white nationalism," Brian Levin, professor of criminal justice and director of the nonpartisan Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism, said in the report.

Despite what many may believe, racism exists and continues to thrive throughout the U.S. During former President Barack Obama's presidential term, it was an underlying issue — silent, yet still deadly as a snake. Now it stalks the face of many Americans in the form of a roaring lion. From the racist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, to the hate crime against 8-year-old Quincy Merlin in Claremont, New Hampshire, the toxicity of racism pervades communities and the lives of minority Americans as the nation becomes more and more divided — which a poll conducted by ABC and The Washington Post shows falls on the shoulders of President Trump.

It's heartbreaking that America has reached a point where nooses have fallen into the hands of children and hatred toward those with different colored skin and cultures has filled their hearts. With these sorts of issues at stake, the scene of children playing in their backyards or even on the playground has been ripped free of its innocence. Parents are now forced to become more aware of the exclusion a child can receive based merely on their ethnicity.

But it's when we're faced with such problems, where 14-year-olds attempt to Lynch an 8-year-old, that we must ask ourselves how they're being raised. Regardless of the horrendous crime, the children aren't entirely the ones to blame, but instead the parents.

Equality is something that's been fought for generations, notably in 1954, with civil rights leaders — Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Rosa Parks — risking their lives in hopes of bringing African-Americans equality. Their efforts drew us closer, but it's apparent that even in 2017, equality hasn't been fully achieved.

While there's no single solution, there are steps that can be taken. For starters, it's crucial that we start exposing young Caucasian children to cultures different from their own. So many Americans are filled with hatred and disgust toward considered minorities due to the simple fact that it's something they don't understand, nor are they willing to try to understand. Due to how they're being raised, they're confined in a bubble as the psychological effects of racism trickle from their parents to them. Ultimately, this creates an endless cycle where prejudiced mentalities travel from generation to generation.

However, whatever the case, African-Americans and other deemed minorities must remain strong and not give up on the fight toward justice. African-Americans must not only come together as a whole, but also face the monstrosity of racism with a roar of their own as they refuse to be silent about things that matter. It's important to never lose hope in what's right when faced with this constant battle for genuine equality.

Jazmine Otey is a sophomore writing, rhetoric and technical communication major. Contact Jazmine at oteyjl@dukes.jmu.edu.
WHITE OUT
BRIDGEFORTH

#1 JMU vs. #11 Villanova
Saturday @ 3:30 PM
On the second floor and the fourth bed over from the double doors, Ryan Hilton waited to be taken into surgery for one last time. The machine that monitored Hilton’s heart rate beeped with every passing minute. Every time the door opened, Hilton caught a glimpse of his mother sitting in the waiting room. He was prepped for surgery, but he needed his new cornea to arrive before they could begin the transplant.

He started holding his breath, playing with the heart-rate monitor to pass the time. Nurses kept coming to check on him. He reassured them he was fine and they informed him his cornea was on the way. More nervous about the IV in his arm than the actual needle that would go into his eye, Hilton knew exactly what to expect.

After 90 minutes, Hilton’s new cornea finally arrived and he was wheeled through the double doors.

“Alright, I’m going to give you your anesthetic,” the anesthesiologist said.

Hilton laid still, feeling the anesthesia dispersing throughout his body. “It’s happening,” he laughed to himself, as he slowly slipped into unconsciousness.

Doctors inserted a needle under his eye, into muscle by the optic nerve. 90 seconds. That’s all the time they had to give Hilton the sight in his eye back.

Hilton was sure of two things — he wanted to be a doctor and he wanted to study abroad. As a freshman biotechnology major at JMU, Hilton was determined to be accepted to the Southeast Asian Field Biology program in Brunei for summer 2016. In order to do so, he had to surpass the typical freshman workload, apply and hope for the best. His hard work paid off — he was accepted. That summer, Hilton packed his bags and boarded a plane to Southeast Asia for the three-week trip.

Wide-eyed, eager and a little apprehensive, Hilton arrived in Thailand with a group of 13 students, immediately immersing themselves into Southeast Asian culture. The first week was filled with visiting night markets, snorkeling and meeting native students, and concluded with a trip to the middle of the jungle in Brunei where the Kuala Belalong Field Center was located. This is where the students would conduct their research for the next two weeks.

Inside the center, a cool draft from a fan irritated Hilton’s eye. “My contact is freaking out,” he thought, as he blinked rapidly to block his dry eye from the wind. Only a few hours prior, he had been swimming in a local river, but didn’t take out his contacts. Now, all he could think about was ripping them out as soon as he got back to his room.

The next morning, Hilton woke up with what appeared to simply be pink eye. After a long boat ride, Hilton arrived in the general hospital in Brunei to get it checked out.

“It’s just conjunctivitis,” the doctor said. “Pink eye.”

Hilton hadn’t come all this way just to hear it was pink eye. The pain and discomfort were telling him that it had to be something more, that this common problem wasn’t the answer. He felt a sense of uneasiness as the doctor pushed antibiotics into his hands and sent him on his way.

3 a.m., 6 a.m., 8 a.m. That night, falling asleep was “pure hell.” Keeping his eye open hurt, but closing it hurt too. After a restless night, Hilton felt as if something was in his eye. He got up from his bed and walked to the mirror to take a look. With both hands, Hilton pried his right eye open — pulling up with his right hand, and down with his left. His eyelashes were glued together. With only one eye open, Hilton looked into the mirror and pulled open his swollen right eye. His normally brown eye was completely white. The whites of his eye were blood red.

Although Hilton lost sight in his right eye, he’ll never forget the memories he made while in Brunei.
“What is going on?” Hilton said, as he felt a strange sense of relief. He laughed to himself, knowing the doctors would have to take him seriously now.

Hilton stepped back from the mirror in his dimly lit room and stumbled outside. The early morning sunlight touched his sensitive eye, the pain holding him hostage and confining him to his porch. He had no choice but to sit and wait for someone to help him.

Ariel Miranda, a fellow JMU study abroad student who had been an EMT, came to check on Hilton. He once again pried open his eye to show her — the whites of his eye were still blood red and his brown eyes still a foggy white. In an attempt to shield her shock, Miranda maintained a straight face. “He might lose that eye,” Miranda thought to herself. “But I can’t tell him that.”

“How does it look?” Hilton asked.

“It looks pretty bad,” Miranda said. “But let’s get you taken care of.”

Hilton sat inside a foreign and unfamiliar examination room at a new hospital. But the doctors still couldn’t identify what was wrong. The series of obtaining samples began. Doctors scraped away bits and pieces of Hilton’s eye, similar to the way one scrapes ice off a car windshield following a big storm.

“We don’t know what this is,” a doctor said with urgency. “But we need to start immediately.”

Doctors shoved Hilton into a 30-person ward where he was given every antibiotic possible in hopes of fixing his eye. The ward, which housed the blind and the elderly with eye issues, had only one bathroom with one shower and one toilet. A thin sheet was the only thing that separated him from his snoring neighbor. In the hospital, he was told to keep his belongings close, or else they would be stolen. The water wasn’t safe to drink or shower in, as his eye was too vulnerable for infection. The nurses who took care of him spoke Malay — broken English at best — but the doctors spoke English. Regardless, Hilton received extra attention because he was American.

Hilton bolted awake. “It’s time for your eye drops,” a nurse said. It had only been 30 minutes since his last set, and everything was blurring together. The hospital ward was starting to cave in. For three days, Hilton was running on only 30-minute increments of sleep. Instead of seeing the country like he planned, he was stuck staring at white walls, waiting for a diagnosis.

After the longest three days of his life, Hilton was brought back down to the examination room. The doctors clarified that it wasn’t pink eye — it was far from it. Hilton was going blind in his right eye while he was 9,495 miles from home.

“We understand that you have an ulcer in your eye,” the doctor said. “It’s going to be intensive. We’re going to do as much as we can, but at the end of all of this, you will be blind in your right eye.”

Shuffling back to the ward, Hilton was exhausted. The shock of it all finally caught up to him. Hilton found himself in the bathroom he shared with the others, looking into the mirror again. He gripped the sink and began to cry.

“Best-case scenario, I’ll be blind,” Hilton thought to himself as tears came to a rest on his cheeks. “I didn’t come to this study abroad to have this happen to me. Why did this happen to me?”

The pain had finally peaked. Hilton was in his own head — not only thinking about the pain, but thinking about his future.

“I’ll never get to be a doctor,” Hilton thought. But Hilton never lost sight of hope.

WILL CARRACK / THE BREEZE

Alpha Tau Omega has closed at James Madison.

Alpha Tau Omega National Fraternity has placed this ad to provide notice that the ATO chapter at James Madison has been closed by the National Fraternity. Students who were members of the Fraternity no longer have authority to operate an Alpha Tau Omega chapter and may not organize any event, sponsor any activity or participate in any endeavor representing Alpha Tau Omega on the James Madison campus or elsewhere in the Harrisonburg community.

“Alpha Tau Omega” and other distinctive letters, marks and insignia of the Fraternity are federally protected trademarks owned and managed by Alpha Tau Omega National Fraternity. Any use of these marks without the expressed written permission of Alpha Tau Omega National Fraternity is strictly prohibited. No group of students at James Madison is authorized to use the name “Alpha Tau Omega” or any of its service marks. Only chartered chapters and qualified members of Alpha Tau Omega are authorized to operate a chapter and use the distinctive marks of the Fraternity.

If you have reason to believe that students on campus continue to operate as though they make up a recognized chapter of Alpha Tau Omega, please alert the Dean of Students office and the Greek Life office at James Madison or contact Alpha Tau Omega.
Two days before the study abroad trip was supposed to end, Hilton boarded a plane that would finally take him back to the United States. But Hilton’s journey was far from over despite the week spent in the Brunei hospital. Because his father had been in the military, Hilton was admitted into Walter Reed Medical Center in Maryland. His eye hadn’t improved, so he was administered more antibiotics. After being sent home, cleared of what doctors had claimed was an infection, Hilton went to a corneal specialist’s office where he saw Dr. John Sheppard in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Hilton’s treatment continued. An anesthetic was pressed two to three inches into his eye socket for an antibiotic injection. It felt weird, but it didn’t really hurt. Then, Sheppard stuck a needle directly into his eye socket. All Hilton could think about was the pain. This moment became the second and final time Hilton cried — but instead of tears, he cried blood. Sheppard saw Hilton about three times a week. He took sample after sample, but nothing was found. Sheppard determined there was still no diagnosis.

The next step was surgery. The first surgery was reparative because Hilton’s eye had become so degraded. The process consisted of sanding away at his eye until the eye became slightly smoother. After an injection, Hilton’s cornea had become dangerously thin.

Again, Hilton went in for a second surgery where doctors sanded away his eye and determined that the infection was back. Doctors stitched tissue onto Hilton’s eye that would hold in drops while simultaneously adhering the tissue to his eye permanently.

It was August, and Hilton had been blind in one eye for three months.

“Not having the ability to see out of one eye is like when you walk down stairs and you forget there’s a last step, and that moment you feel like you’re going to drop,” Hilton said.

By December, Hilton had been blind in one eye for seven months. During winter break of 2016, his sophomore year, Hilton had his cornea transplant.

The 90 seconds were up. Hilton began to wake up, everything was foggy as he came into consciousness. Next thing he knew, he was fully awake. He couldn’t feel the right side of his face — it was completely numb. For 24 hours, Hilton kept the bandage over his eye and came back the next day.

“Alright, I’m going to take off your bandage now,” the nurse said.

Before, Hilton saw everything through a white fog. When the bandage was taken off, it wasn’t like everything was crystal clear. But now, he could see when someone would move or blink — it was huge for him.

It’s been 10 months since Hilton got his vision back. However, everything isn’t back to normal. Every day Hilton has to give himself a steroid drop, protect his eye from water — even in the shower — and he’ll need to replace his cornea in 10 to 15 years.

Growing up, Hilton watched TV and read books with stories of adventure. And in the back of his mind, he always wanted to do the same. But since the transplant, things have changed.

“I always have to be in a place where there’s advanced medical care,” Hilton said. “It eliminates opportunities by a significant amount.”

Now a junior, Hilton has moments where he regrets the cornea transplant and the new life it carved out for him. The new restrictions on Hilton’s life make him question if he’d rather still be blind than dependent on medical care. Hilton’s perspective may have changed for a lot of things, but he can still see himself being doctor. And nothing can stop him from doing exactly that.
Human destruction

artWorks Gallery creatively shows negative human impact on environment

By JAZMINE OTEY
The Breeze

One hundred years from now, the sun’s bright beams will cast a remorseful glow on the dark remains of our deteriorated planet. Smog will penetrate the air, smothering what little bit of fresh air exists as human waste floods neighborhoods that once thrived. The white, pristine architecture of monumental buildings such as the White House and the U.S. Capitol building will be coated in an unsightly brown, and proud U.S. symbols will crumble to pieces at the hands of human callousness.

On Oct. 2, artWorks, a student-run gallery, presented an art exhibit titled "E(ART)th," with the intent of using environmental art to bring awareness to humanity’s detrimental impact on our planet.

The art exhibit features art by 15 JMU students, with a multitude of mediums ranging from sculptures to acrylic paintings, plexiglass and more. artWorks is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the “E(ART)th” art exhibit will last until Oct. 20.

"By means of art, JMU students are taking a stand in the interest of creating changes that enhance our world," Anna Jennings, the executive director and a senior art history major, said in the show signage. "Together we can construct a cleaner, safer and more sustainable Earth."

Lisa Smith, a junior architectural design major and a student featured in the exhibit, used an acrylic piece titled "where have all the buildings gone?" to convey the effects of air pollution on one of America’s most well-known architectural landmarks — the New York skyline. Smith makes use of different shades of brown and grey along with faint white strokes throughout her painting. With this technique, Smith alludes to the idea of searching through the smog to find the barely visible skyline.

"Buildings are like a logo," Smith said. "If you’re pulling into a city, you can see them from a couple of miles out and know you’re almost at your destination. They represent human brain power and what we have learned to do. I think the main solution just comes from raising that initial awareness."

Another artist, Caley English, a sophomore studio art major, decided that a sculpture titled "Give them Life" would be efficient in getting her message across. Inspired by the pollution of the James River, she utilized packing tape to create a pair of legs. The legs sit in a wooden chair and are filled with colorful fake leaves.

The taped legs represent man-made objects along with the idea that plastic is polluting our environment. English filled the legs with leaves to convey the concept that humans aren’t only a part of the environment, but to illustrate the Earth’s power in overcoming humanity and fixing what we’ve destroyed. Also, the chair that the legs are propped on represents the idea that humans use the Earth’s resources for their own benefits.

"This is a really good time to have this show because we’re in the midst of some kind of turning point in our environment," English said. "Making art in response to that and then having a show about it helps people understand it on a more psychological, deeper, personal level."

see ENVIRONMENT, page 22
ENVIRONMENT

Local art gallery shows the negative effect of human action on Earth

artWorks puts on a student-run gallery with work by 15 JMU students, bringing awareness to the individual impact on Earth. The exhibit displays pieces in many different mediums and techniques from paint to wood.

In addition, artist Sophia Rhafiri, a junior studio art and graphic design double major, collectively used acrylic paint, thread and plastic bags to symbolize human waste. In a piece titled “Ignoring Desolation Equivocates to ignoring Human Life,” Rhafiri uses abstraction and a contrast of dull and vivid colors to depict that the negative qualities of humanity are outweighing the positive ones. There’s also a pod where she placed multiple seeds to represent human life. However, the plastic bags cover them and spew out waste.

“We don’t think about the long-term effects of our actions,” Rhafiri said. “It’s ultimately [going to] bring us down and block all the positive qualities about humanity. We’re wasting the Earth that we have and we can’t really get a new Earth.”

Nonetheless, the pieces previously described don’t equate to the variety of artistic talent showcased in the “E(ART)H” art exhibit. In fact, there are many more pieces with impactful messages behind them that depict why environmentalism is crucial and not a problem that should be ignored.

“I think it’s really cool that JMU gives students the opportunity to show their work here and have their voices heard, especially on issues that are really important like environmentalism,” Spencer Law, a freshman history and media arts and design double major, said. “I think a lot of the work here is really powerful.”

Environmental awareness is vital to the survival of our planet. The main goal of artWork’s artists is for their audience to develop a sense of awareness and ultimately take action in regard to the problems that have currently been escalating throughout our world. With the latest catastrophes, such as hurricanes and wildfires, artWorks aspires for Dukes to be a change in the destruction humans have done unto the planet.

“Humans are responsible for the prevailing degradation and depletion of our planet’s natural resources,” Jennings said in an email. “It is time we accept responsibility, adjust our way of living and take action towards achieving a more sustainable society.”

CONTACT Jazmine Otey at Oteyjl@dukes.jmu.edu. For more on the culture, arts and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Twitter @Breeze_Culture.

By MARIA KEULER
The Breeze

Glass equipment for homebrewing beer lines the walls of the rustic, comfortable basement filled with barrels, barnwood and bar stools. Customers are greeted with beer taps, tasting menus and the opportunity to buy their own equipment to create beer themselves.

The Friendly Fermenter opened its doors this past September, taking the title of Harrisonburg’s first on-site brew shop and nanobrewery.

Owner Shawn Gatesman has been in the Harrisonburg region for almost 20 years. His interest in craft brewing took off when he began homebrewing and noticed neighbors and friends enjoyed his beer. He chose a small basement in downtown Harrisonburg, “The Friendly City,” to share his passion.

“I’m rooted in this community,” Gatesman said. “It’s got the diversity you want and the opportunities you want, without being like this huge, cold-feeling city.”

Gatesman’s passion for brewing sparked in 2014 when he began experimenting with wineberries. After research and watching videos on how to make beer, he thought it would be fun to try for himself.

He began homebrewing on the stove. The process consists of soaking malted barley in hot water to release the malt sugars, then boiling the malt sugar solution with hops for seasoning. Once the solution is cooled, yeast is added to begin fermentation. The yeast ferments the sugars, releasing carbon dioxide and ethyl alcohol. When the main fermentation is complete, the beer is bottled with a little bit of added sugar to provide the carbonation.

“I did like three or four batches that way and just got the bug bad,” Gatesman said.

By MARIA KEULER
The Breeze

Samuel Lindley began brewing in 2014, he’s since created his very own nanobrewery in Harrisonburg.
From there it turned into making two-gallon batches, then five-gallon batches. Eventually people wanted him to brew for parties and weddings, so he began homebrewing 10-gallon batches.

"So much about it soothed me," Gatesman said. "I love creating things."

All beers at the Friendly Fermenter are brewed in their on-location taproom, allowing Gatesman to experiment with ingredients of his choice. Because the beer is brewed in small batches, Gatesman has the advantage of making multiple different styles of beer, creating a menu full of variety. New homebrew-inspired beers are produced weekly.

The Friendly Fermenter takes pride in its relationships with customers, caring about their opinions and feedback to constantly improve and produce beer they're proud of. "I liked how the space is built for conversation," Navya Dev, a senior independent scholars major, said. "Everyone was talking to each other and I liked how we could learn everything about what we were drinking."

Gatesman believes his customers should be able to put a familiar face to the name of the Friendly Fermenter. Customers can be educated about the beer culture while sipping on a cold one.

"I want people to come in here and feel extremely comfortable and cozy and relaxed," Gatesman said.

Alec Barney, a JMU alumnus and taproom bartender, has been homebrewing for about a year and a half. Barney met Gatesman at a homebrewing class he presented at the JMU X-labs, which are a series of innovative, engineering pop-up classes for the JMU and Harrisonburg communities.

"Shawn’s pretty much my mentor," Barney said. "He’s given me a lot of opportunity to grow and given me a lot of opportunity to learn."

After volunteering at the Friendly Fermenter to help set up, Barney landed a permanent position tending to customers and serving the unique craft beer the Friendly Fermenter has to offer. His favorite beer that’s brewed there is the Sunchaser, a New England session IPA containing hop characteristics without the bitter taste.

"Shawn gives more of a personal touch … he likes to keep his face in the front of the business," Barney said. "But at the Friendly Fermenter, it feels like you could get to know everyone in the taproom."

The Friendly Fermenter plans on offering both educational and hands-on classes to the Harrisonburg community to learn how to brew beer themselves in their nanobrewery. The first class will take place today, where customers can sip out of an Erlenmeyer flask as they’re presented the basics of homebrewing.

"Shawn is an entrepreneur and hearing about how he turned his love for beer into a vision for how to spread homebrewing and then eventually a brewery is so exciting," Dev said. "Entrepreneurship is a big part of the culture of Harrisonburg and I love seeing people like Shawn actualizing their passions and continuing the tradition of innovation here in the ‘Burg."

CONTACT Maria Keuler at keulermc@dukes.jmu.edu. For more on the culture, arts and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Twitter @Breeze_Culture.
By JACK FITZPATRICK
The Breeze

James Madison University isn’t the first name that comes to mind when you think of dominating college football. Instead, the teams thought of are normally ones that make up the SEC, like Alabama or Georgia.

“It was a combination of JMU being one of the top programs in the FCS,” Associate Athletic Director of Communications Kevin Warner said.

“Although not as popular as other teams in the world of college football, JMU is a force to be reckoned with. Winning its last 17 games, the team leads the nation in all of Division I football. It’s also outscored opponents this season by an average of 30.2 points per game.

Normally FCS schools aren’t picked for ESPN’s “College GameDay,” — this will only be the eighth time GameDay has come to an FCS school’s campus. However this game pits twoCAA powerhouses against each other.

With the game being a CAA matchup, this makes it even more enticing for GameDay. It’s no SEC matchup or ACC rivalry, but the game is still bound to give storyline after storyline with competition between two highly ranked FCS opponents.

The CAA could be argued that it’s the SEC of FCS football. It currently has six teams in the top 25 and is stacked from top to bottom with no easy win. This game pits two of the powerhouse in the CAA against each other, which makes for a great game.

“Great challenge coming in here Saturday, in a very, very good Villanova team,” head coach Mike Houston said. “Ranked 11th in the most recent polls, and when you look at them on film, they look very much like the Villanova team of the past.”

GameDay has many reasons for choosing JMU for its second trip to the valley in three years.

JMU has the stats to show it’s the best team in the FCS, being ranked No. 1 in both the STATS FCS top 25 and the FCS Coaches Poll. So right off the bat, they’re one of the only real options GameDay has if they were to choose an FCS team.

JMU has won games in convincing fashion week in and week out, even against FBS foe East Carolina University. They’ve also been able to beat down on CAA foes, which shows their talent.

Another reason GameDay made its choice to come to JMU is that the FBS allure to GameDay than any other FCS matchup, like Youngstown State vs. North Dakota State. Since they knew what to expect from JMU, however, it made their decision a little easier.

Last time GameDay came, they had a great experience. All hosts tweeted about the atmosphere and how amazing the fans were, all of which contributed to JMU landing GameDay once again.

“I don’t think there is any doubt it’s a customer service,” JMU Director of Athletics Jeff Bourne said. “It’s what we do and I think we do it very well.”

When you first step back and look at GameDay choosing JMU, it could be thought of as a knee-jerk reaction and something that doesn’t really have a lot of backing. However, once you sit down and look at the team and school themselves, it all makes sense. JMU blew ESPN out of the water back in 2015 and has continued the success that started that season to this day.

JMU, and more specifically the ‘Burg, serves as one of the most picturesque backdrops that GameDay could choose.

Hosting back in 2015 really isn’t thought of as another reason they made the decision, however it did play an instrumental part. According to Lee Flitting in an interview he did with the Daily News-Record’s Greg Madia, GameDay was looking at other FCS matchups, like Alabama or Georgia.

ESPN’s “College GameDay” visited JMU on Oct. 24, 2015. Lee Corso walked out of Wilson Hall to predict a James Madison win over Richmond. The Dukes followed up the show with a 59-49 loss to the Spiders.

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“I don’t think there is any doubt it’s a customer service,” JMU Director of Athletics Jeff Bourne said. “It’s what we do and I think we do it very well.”

When you first step back and look at GameDay choosing JMU, it could be thought of as a knee-jerk reaction and something that doesn’t really have a lot of backing. However, once you sit down and look at the team and school themselves, it all makes sense. JMU blew ESPN out of the water back in 2015 and has continued the success that started that season to this day.

JMU, and more specifically the ‘Burg, serves as one of the most picturesque backdrops that GameDay could choose.

Hosting back in 2015 really isn’t thought of as another reason they made the decision, however it did play an instrumental part. According to Lee Flitting in an interview he did with the Daily News-Record’s Greg Madia, GameDay was looking at other FCS matchups, like Alabama or Georgia.

ESPN’s “College GameDay” visited JMU on Oct. 24, 2015. Lee Corso walked out of Wilson Hall to predict a James Madison win over Richmond. The Dukes followed up the show with a 59-49 loss to the Spiders.
### Men's Soccer
- **Scoreboard**
  - *(5-0, 2-0 CAA)*
  - **Latest Score:** Bye week
  - **Next Game:** Saturday vs. #11 Villanova

### Women's Soccer
- **Scoreboard**
  - *(7-8-0, 2-2-0 CAA)*
  - **Latest Scores:**
    - Loss vs. College of Charleston 1-0
    - Loss at Hofstra 3-0
  - **Next Game:** Today vs. Towson

### Field Hockey
- **Scoreboard**
  - *(8-4, 1-1 CAA)*
  - **Latest Scores:**
    - Win vs. Drexel 7-1
    - Loss at #8 Delaware 5-2
  - **Next Game:** Sunday vs. #13 Wake Forest

### Volleyball
- **Scoreboard**
  - *(13-2, 4-2 CAA)*
  - **Latest Scores:**
    - Loss at Northeastern 3-2
    - Win at Hofstra 3-2
  - **Next Games:**
    - Friday vs. Delaware
    - Sunday vs. Towson

### Football
- **Scoreboard**
  - *(5-5-3, 2-1-2 CAA)*

### Men's Soccer (11)
- **Scoreboard**
  - *(5-0, 2-0 CAA)*
  - **Latest Score:** Bye week
  - **Next Game:** Saturday vs. #11 Villanova

### Women's Soccer (11)
- **Scoreboard**
  - *(7-8-0, 2-2-0 CAA)*
  - **Latest Scores:**
    - Loss vs. College of Charleston 1-0
    - Loss at Hofstra 3-0
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### Field Hockey (11)
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  - **Next Games:**
    - Friday vs. Delaware
    - Sunday vs. Towson
By JACK FITZPATRICK
The Breeze

By now, the news has reached everyone on campus. ESPN’s “College GameDay” is visiting JMU for the second time in the last three years. GameDay is a college football tradition. It airs on ESPN every Saturday starting at 9 a.m. and goes until the first set of games kicks off at noon. Normally, GameDay finds itself at a big FBS school week in and week out, from the likes of Alabama, Clemson or other SEC or ACC schools.

The only other FCS team to host GameDay twice is FCS giant North Dakota State University, earning it in back-to-back years — 2013 and 2014. It’s rather uncommon for GameDay to choose an FCS school, being that it has a somewhat smaller fanbase and the average college football fan doesn’t normally follow FCS football as closely. However, the perfect storm happened again for JMU and it helped them land the show yet again.

GameDay became entrenched in college football tradition in 1987. It started with host Tim Brando with Lee Corso and Beano Cook as the show’s commentators. Through time, the show looks nothing like it did when it first started. There was a major change that came in 1989 when the show turned to live broadcasting, which led to the famous location pick every week. In 2010, the show also changed from a two-hour broadcast to three.

The cast of the show has also changed multiple times over the years, most recently the switch from Samantha Ponder as co-host to Maria Taylor. Taylor, who wasn’t with the crew back in 2015, recently tweeted her excitement for coming to the valley. She tweeted, “Oh I’m so ready for my first trip to JMU!! I hope the scene is just as crazy this Saturday.”

Another major switch up in the cast came in 2015, when Rece Davis took over host duties after Chris Fowler left the show. With that move, some thought the show’s ratings would go down and hurt the show as a whole. Instead, when Davis came in, ratings continued to increase. And the average viewers per episode were 1,961,000 according to Awful Announcing, which was the highest mark since the show switched to its three-hour format.

The one consistency throughout the show has been Corso. He’s been with the program since its inception and has been through every single change, remaining the fan favorite of the show. Corso is famous for his pick of the day, which features him putting on the headgear of the school he thinks will win. Or, in the case of when he picked JMU to beat the University of Richmond Spiders, Corso dressed up as President James Madison, recited a monologue and then put the Duke Dog head on.

This hasn’t been the tradition since the start of the show. It started on Oct. 5, 1996 with a pick of Brutus the Buckeye for Ohio State. He just put on his 300th headgear with the choosing of the TCU horned frog.

This Saturday, Corso will put on headgear for the 301st time on the Quad. It’s no 300, but 301 is still a special number. Hopefully, he won’t regret his decision to put on the Duke Dog head last time and he’ll choose to do the same again this Saturday.

CONTACT Jack Fitzpatrick at fitzpajg@dukes.jmu.edu. For more GameDay coverage, follow the the sports desk on Twitter at TheBreezeSports.
### Editors’ Picks

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**Editors’ picks**

- **Villanova vs. JMU**: 21-7 JMU
- **Oklahoma vs. Texas**: Texas Oklahoma
- **Oregon vs. Stanford**: Stanford Oregon
- **Eagles vs. Panthers**: Panthers Eagles
- **Packers vs. Vikings**: Packers
- **Lions vs. Saints**: Saints

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**Packers vs. Vikings**

- **Packers** vs. **Vikings**
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- **Packers** vs. **Vikings**
- **Packers** vs. **Vikings**

**Saints vs. Lions**

- **Saints** vs. **Lions**
- **Saints** vs. **Lions**
- **Saints** vs. **Lions**
Breezejmu.org SPORTS

come into Bridgeforth and break hype and praise out of the locker the notion of keeping all the media coach Mike Houston has preached best effort. “win the game and put forward your to be. If it really means a lot to you, said. “If you’re distracted, I believe has its earplugs in and its phones weekend full of festivities, the team students and fans gearing up for a this week-seven matchup. With JMU setting up its show on the Quad for 1. Staying focused the 1-3 Black Bears of Maine. 

Fully rested and geared for another win, the JMU football team searches for its 17th-consecutive victory — which would mark the longest streak in CAA history — this Saturday against the Villanova Wildcats at Bridgeforth Stadium. In the 26th matchup between the two teams, JMU (5-0, 2-0 CAA) is vying for its third-consecutive win against Villanova (4-2, 2-1 CAA). The Dukes’ most recent victory over the Wildcats came on Nov. 12, 2016 at Villanova in a game that saw JMU clinch the CAA title. While no team has been able to dethrone JMU this season, Villanova offers a legitimate threat coming off a 31-0 victory over the 1-3 Black Bears of Maine.

1. Staying focused

JMU nation was overwhelmed with anticipation and excitement this past Sunday when “College GameDay” announced it’ll be setting up its show on the Quad for this week-seven matchup. With JMU students and fans gearing up for a weekend full of festivities, the team has its earplugs in and its phones turned off.

“Coach Houston just said today that distractions are for weak-minded people,” redshirt senior defensive lineman Andrew Ankrah said. “If you’re distracted, I believe you’re distracted because you want to be. If it really means a lot to you, win the game and put forward your best effort.”

Throughout the season, head coach Mike Houston has preached the notion of keeping all the media hype and praise out of the locker room, insisting that any team can come into Bridgeforth and break down the progress the team has built this season. Those words mean more than ever this week, as national attention will be brought upon the Dukes when the circus comes to town.

“Our fans and alumni will enjoy it tremendously,” Houston said. “At the end of the day, though, the most important thing for our program is football games and we’ll keep our focus right there where it’s supposed to be.”

The Dukes will approach this week just as any other, blocking out all outside noise and distractions, but with “College GameDay” coming into town, expect this to be the toughest task to match for the Dukes all season.

2. Attacking the secondary

The JMU offense will be looking to attack the secondary of the Villanova defense this Saturday. Allowing an average of 233.8 passing yards per game, the Wildcats defense has allowed 10.0 yards per catch and four touchdowns through the air.

This is a salivating image for the Dukes’ offense, a unit that’s averaged 327.5 passing yards per game and has 13 touchdowns through the air. Senior quarterback Bryan Schor has completed 69.1 percent of his passes and has over 1,000 yards in the air.

Ten different receivers have caught touchdowns this season, with two scores coming from redshirt senior wide receiver Ishmael Hyman, junior wide receiver David Eldridge and redshirt sophomore wide receiver Riley Stapleton apiece.

While the Dukes would be wise to attack the secondary throughout the contest, they need to focus on limiting turnovers, especially interceptions. Facing a defense that’s forced eight interceptions — three coming from sophomore linebacker Keeling Hunter — Schor enters this contest with five interceptions, just one fewer than he had in the entirety of the 2016 season.

“Our ball security is something that often proves who wins and who loses the games,” Schor said. “We definitely have to make sure we take care of the ball because turnovers can be critical in this game.”

While the offense needs to be smart in the passing game this week, expect a big day through the air and a great performance from Schor and co.

3. Stuffing the run

While the JMU offense will be aiming through the air, the defense will be zoned in on stopping the Villanova running game. Led by junior running back Aaron Forbes and senior running back Matt Gudzak, Villanova has averaged 153.2 rushing yards per game and has scored 10 rushing touchdowns.

“They’re a physical running football team,” Houston said. “They’ve got to do a great job of being gap sound, being physical at the point of contact and we’ve got to be very, very disciplined to just do our job within our scheme.”

This will need all the attention from the front seven of JMU, a group that’s allowed a paltry 89.4 rushing yards per game and just three touchdowns all year. The Dukes have been especially effective at getting past the offensive line and forcing tackles for a loss, as Ankrah has 6.0, redshirt junior defensive lineman Darrius Carter and senior defensive lineman Cornell Urquhart each have 4.5 and three Dukes each have 3.5.

“It’s all about the point of contact,” redshirt senior linebacker Kyre Hawkins said. “Our defensive line understands that. Setting the point of contact, disrupting the line of scrimmage and getting tackles for loss is our goal.”

Jumping off the line of scrimmage and attacking the run game will put JMU in a prime position for halting the Villanova offense.

4. Ending the half strong

For a Villanova offense that’s scoring a consistent 29.2 points per game, the Wildcats are especially effective at attacking at the end of the first and second halves of their contests — outscoring opponents by a combined 114-40 in the second and fourth quarters. The Villanova offense has been manic at wearing down opposing defenses throughout the first 25 minutes and striking hard in the final five minutes in the second and fourth quarters, which is something JMU’s defense will need to adjust to.

“We’ve shown throughout the year that we’re a well-conditioned football team,” Houston said. “We’ve been our strongest late in ballgames so I think our team is built to be effective no matter what part of the game we’re talking about, but especially at the end of halves.”

Maintaining a high IQ and remaining resilient throughout each half will speak volumes to keeping this Villanova offense off the scoreboard, especially in the closing minutes of each half.

“We call our hashtag TTG,” Ankrah said. “We’re trained to go, trained to face anything from any opposition.”

CONTACT Blake Pace at paceba@dukes.jmu.edu. For more football coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.

By BLAKE PACE

The Breeze

After coming out on the losing side of a 59-49 shootout against Richmond in “College GameDay’s” 2015 visit to Harrisonburg, fans of the Dukes hope for a reprise of the rowdy atmosphere but a different outcome.

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**by Linda Thistle**

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