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On Jan. 12, 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit Haiti, with the epicenter just 16 miles away from the capital, Port-au-Prince. The Haitian population consisted of 10 million people, and approximately 220,000 died from the earthquake. Over 300,000 were injured.

Daniel Beers, a JMU justice studies professor, and his wife, Kymber Beers, embarked on a trip to aid those in need in response to the earthquake, just six weeks after it devastated the island. Prior to arriving, they sought to volunteer with Haitian organizations, COPROVACA and OPMAGAT, to create a nonprofit that would provide maximum benefit to the people of Haiti. Their organization took about a year to develop because of the constant back-and-forth with their partners.

"One of our biggest things we want to do is to be genuine partners with our organizations in Haiti," Kymber Beers said. "We don’t want to tell them the solutions that they need. Just because we are the ones who have the money doesn’t mean we know what their community needs or we know how to fix their problems.”

The main section of R2R in which Beers focuses primarily on is microfinance. The organization aids those with limited financial resources to save and invest in something they need or enjoy and encourages the participants to focus on long-term financial goals.

"It's a one-to-one matching system for a savings plan, so if participants want to enroll, they can deposit $15 a month in their savings and if they deposit $15, Resources to Resources will match it," Alex Balbontin, a sophomore dietetics major, said. "Whatever is in their bank account by the end of the month, if they have deposited $15 or more, Resources to Resources will double it.”

The second branch, which is located in Camp-Perrin, was formed after Hurricane Matthew devastated Haiti in the fall of 2016. R2R partnered with a farmers’ cooperative organization to create a community garden program to reestablish the agricultural area.

Beers arrived to JMU in August of 2017 and has already started to think ahead for the future campus chapter of R2R. While the club isn’t official, he and the current members have started to brainstorm for potential events.

"We have an agenda to do some informational events, small-scale fundraisers and really just establish a group that knows each other and is comfortable with each other,” Daniel Beers said.

Beers emphasizes that the organization is one where students should join if they feel compelled to serve an underrepresented population.

"There is a misguided sense in a lot of circles that Haiti is a charity case,” Daniel Beers said. "It’s filled with creative, smart, hardworking, innovative people who just don’t have the resources they need to carry out their vision of how they want their community in their society to develop.”

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For people in the Harrisonburg area struggling with arthritis or mobility issues, a new grant will provide them with an outlet to practice low-impact exercises and help create stronger relationships within the community.

Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation was recently the recipient of the Fit and Strong! Grant from the National Recreation and Park Association and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The grant is designed to provide training with exercises and classes for anyone with flexibility issues, particularly those above the age of 50.

“It is our goal to serve our community in the greatest capacity,” Brittany Clem, marketing and special projects coordinator at Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation, said. “We make sure that we are offering programming that they're interested in and that also allows them to live a healthy lifestyle.”

Harrisonburg was one of 27 Parks and Recreation agencies from around the country to receive this grant. The Fit and Strong! activities will be included as part of the 50 + and Wiser program the City of Harrisonburg already facilitates. This program offers classes such as pickleball, bowling and disc golf to the community.

Fit and Strong! is a physical activity self-management program for older adults. It’s demonstrated significant functional and activity improvements in its participants. It combines flexibility, strength training and aerobic walking with health education for sustained behavior changes.

Activities are designed for participants to gain a clear understanding of physical activity that’s tailored to the needs of individuals with arthritis. The hope is that participants can maintain independent living while also learning how to reduce arthritis symptoms through this program.

“We have a lot of interested people in this program,” Lynn Hoy, director of the Price Rotary Senior Center, said. “We pursued this grant and hopefully, we’ll be able to offer classes to the people of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County to learn from.”

The Price Rotary Senior Center, located in Westover Park, will be hosting the grant-funded events. Previously, the center has offered fitness classes such as tai chi, line dancing and pickleball, as well as social classes like knitting, crocheting and group lunches.

“I want to enhance the lives of people 50 and older and provide social and physical activities to make their lives more full,” Hoy said. “It brings a lot of community people together as people move into the area and they’re looking to retire here.”

Fit and Strong! will be offered three times a week for 12 weeks by trained Valley Program for Aging Services and Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation staff member. A few introductory classes will take place this summer, with the full program beginning to be offered in the fall of 2018.

To facilitate these programs, Joyce Nussbaum, the health and wellness coordinator at VPAS, will be training to teach workshops. Her training has involved helping those with mobility issues to learn how to balance and lead a more active lifestyle because she’s been trained in fall-prevention workshops. Her training has involved helping those with mobility issues to learn how to balance and lead a more active lifestyle.

“Come on in and our staff are happy to see you and help with pain relief,” Nussbaum said. “We’re going to introduce people who may have not been active because of pain and fatigue, to help them learn exercises that they can do to help with pain relief.”

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Four JMU alerts have been emailed to students since the beginning of spring semester. Two of these alerts were sent on Monday. In light of these recent events involving trespassing and other security concerns in JMU residence halls, some student advocates are partnering with the organization, JMU Believes You, to petition the university to add further safety measures to the dorms.

The petition asks for specific changes to dorms, including keypad locks or swipe access to bathroom, swipe access to all staircases and elevators and installation of security cameras at dorm entrances. These precautions mimic some neighboring universities. For example, George Mason University residences require swiping to enter the building and then again to enter either their bedroom or their dorm. Residence halls at the University of Virginia vary, but all require swipe access and a pin to enter dorms. Newer dorms at U.Va. also include key access to bathrooms.

Jenna Owens, a junior anthropology and English double major, experienced sexual assault during her freshman year. This experience empowered her to start the petition. "I think the biggest thing is that we feel like there's not enough security in the on-campus residence halls," Owens said. "Most of the instances that have been occurring lately have been able to happen because all of the dorms have one layer of security."

The Village suites are an exception because these halls have swipe access to the dorms as well as a code to enter the wing of their suite. However, these dorms don't have swipe access to bathrooms.

Currently, JMU has safety measures in place such as the blue light system, which allows students to call authorities if they see suspicious activity when walking around campus. The JMU Police Department also offers an escort system for students who may not want to walk home alone at night. The police department sends out alerts to keep students aware of crimes on campus as well.

Shannon Smith, a sophomore nursing major, also helped initiate the petition. Smith felt compelled to become involved after her friend reportedly saw a peeping Tom in Chandler Hall. Until this event, Smith didn't see herself as a voice for increasing campus safety. This incident prompted the JMU alert emailed out on Jan. 22. "Of course I advocate for women and our rights and everything, but as soon as it happened to my friend I was like, 'How am I supposed to give her back and every other woman on this campus back what they lost?'" Smith said. "The answer is we can't. But I can fight to ensure their [future] safety on JMU's campus."

Eliza McKnight, a freshman psychology major, is a supporter of the petition. She reportedly had a man trespass in her dorm Feb. 5. McKnight sat up to check her phone and saw an older male. McKnight texted her roommate because she thought the man resembled her roommate's boyfriend. After realizing the man was an intruder, she contacted authorities.

McKnight feels that not enough is being done to eradicate the issue. Although she believes that police patrols help, she said other measures such as security cameras at entrances could make dorms more secure. McKnight advises others to take precautions and to get help if they feel violated.

"Definitely lock your doors," McKnight said. "Be really careful about who you let in the building and if something like that does happen, I would say get help immediately. Don't try to wait, because the police would much rather you have a false alarm than you wait and it's actually really serious."

According to Smith, the chances of adding further safety measures in the future are optimistic. The petition has reached its original goal of 1,000 signatures. Smith scheduled a meeting with Mark Warner, vice president of student affairs, and has connected with the Office of Residence Life and deputy chief of the crime prevention team.

"There's no one opposed to getting more security and it's just the matter of JMU investing in students' safety and making it a priority," Smith said. "They can't deny that it's an issue on campus, but they can avoid it because of money and costs and their other priorities."

Bill Wyatt, JMU's director of communications and university spokesperson, feels that many of the incidents taking place in residence halls could be prevented by students following through with current procedures. For example, students aren't supposed to allow male guests to use female floors' bathrooms. They're also asked to avoid holding the door open for others when entering residence halls to prevent intruders.

Wyatt feels the university is taking the concerns of the petitioners seriously. He's motivated by the students' activism.

"We're encouraged by the petition, obviously it shows students care," Wyatt said. "Students are involved and we're always willing to listen to their concerns... and try and address those concerns as best we can."

Wyatt said JMU is considering testing out some of the recommended security measures in a few dorms. However, according to Wyatt, surveys from previous years show that students didn't favor having card swipe access to restrooms.

"Safety is our No. 1 priority — even above our educational mission, is maintaining a safe campus for students, faculty and staff to learn and to operate," Wyatt said. "There's no timeline per say, but it is a matter of sitting down, listening to concerns, talking about ideas [and] coming up with compromises or possibilities."

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Major mayor
Alumnus was Harrisonburg’s first African-American mayor

By CHRISTY FREITAG
The Breeze

As Harrisonburg diversifies, the local government has pushed for leaders who are more representative of its eclectic community. Fourteen years ago, Harrisonburg elected its first African-American mayor, Larry Rogers. Now living to see Harrisonburg’s most diverse city council and first African-American city manager, Rogers recalls his years in public service and the struggle for diversity in Harrisonburg’s leadership.

“It took 155 years before a black person became the mayor [in Harrisonburg], and that was me,” Rogers said. “So I knew that burden and it was important that I be successful.”

Rogers came to Harrisonburg as a JMU student-athlete for the football team in 1977. That year, Madison College was renamed James Madison University, but more importantly, Rogers remembers it as the beginning of racial diversity on campus, with the first African-American graduating in 1974.

After receiving his master’s degree in counseling from JMU in 1981, Rogers worked in Harrisonburg’s school system as a student teacher and football coach. But he recalls his struggles as a young African-American in the community.

“The athletic director didn’t pay me that year even though I had all these degrees because they weren’t sure how the community would accept a black coach,” Rogers said. “I coached anyway and we were undefeated.”

In 1994, Rogers decided to run for city council and then-mayor in 2004. But like coaching, Rogers faced difficulties getting elected.

“When I ran for office, I was told there was no way that I could get elected,” Rogers said. In Harrisonburg, the mayor is chosen by fellow council members; Rogers explained it took two days for them to elect him. In a council of all Republicans, Rogers ran for mayor as the first African-American and a Democrat. Former councilman Hugh Lantz, who served with Rogers on the council for 12 years, nominated Rogers for the position in 2004.

“There wasn’t a lot of black leadership in the city,” Lantz said. “Larry broke that barrier and paved the way for other black people and females to take stronger positions, especially in city government.”

Rogers served as mayor from 2004-06 and on JMU’s Board of Visitors from 2004-12. Mayor Deanna Reed believes Rogers’ ties to the university helped bridge the gap between Harrisonburg and JMU. She also recalls enthusiasm from the northeast neighborhood — Harrisonburg’s African-American neighborhood and her own — regarding Rogers as mayor.

“I do remember how excited the black community... was to have him as the first African-American mayor because, to be honest, they didn’t think they’d see it,” Reed said. “It’s definitely not the same Harrisonburg that I grew up in. Our city leadership needed to reflect the new Harrisonburg.”

Rogers, however, wasn’t a Harrisonburg native before taking office. He was raised in Bluefield, Virginia, where his grandfather served as the first African-American city council member.

“I always had in my head that he’s up in heaven pulling strings for me,” Rogers said. “I understand that some of the things he’d done is still impacting the community.”

Like his grandfather, Rogers has impacted Harrisonburg’s economic growth over the years. He understood JMU’s potential to stimulate Harrisonburg’s economy during the 2008 recession and was responsible for the decision to sell the city’s high school to JMU and create a new building.

“With community, the real color is green because it’s economic development,” Rogers said. “I know that the will of society is around that.”

Also at this time, Rogers persuaded former president Barack Obama to campaign at JMU during his 2008 presidential race. Rogers spoke with Obama at a rally in Richmond, Virginia, convincing the politician that Harrisonburg would be essential to winning the battleground state.

“I said to him, ‘Senator Obama, I want you to be president, but you have to win Virginia and the only way you can win Virginia is you’ve got to come to my town because my town has a stronghold on the Republican party,’” Rogers said. “If you come to Harrisonburg, then you’ll win Virginia.”

For Rogers, politics came second to his passion for counseling. During his years on the council, Rogers started the Boys & Girls Club in Harrisonburg and served as president of the D.C.-Virginia Boys & Girls Club from 1998-2002.

Rogers continues this passion by counseling kids in Harrisonburg and surrounding counties. He’s now also involved with a startup company that’s creating an educational video platform to virtually explore museums.

Rogers remains grounded by the community he’s created in Harrisonburg. To Rogers, the first step toward building a stronger Harrisonburg is allowing diversity of opinions within its leadership.

“I always felt I had to set an example and be successful,” Rogers said. “It’s not about color. I had to break that barrier. There’s always one that has to go through that.”

CONTACT Christy Freitag at freitagc@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.

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IN BRIEF:

WORLD:
PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA RESIGNS

South African president Jacob Zuma resigned Wednesday after facing an ultimatum by the African National Congress, the country’s current ruling party, of either resigning or facing a vote of “no confidence” the next day, which is a method parliaments use to signal their lack of support for the current government.

The embattled former president was accused of numerous allegations of corruption, with the most recent scandal involving a prominent family using its status for special political favors. However, the family denies any allegations of wrongdoing.

NATIONAL:
AT LEAST 17 DEAD IN PARKLAND, FLORIDA, SCHOOL SHOOTING

Seventeen people are reported dead following a shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Wednesday. Police responded to reports of a shooting at the school shortly before 3 p.m. A suspect, former student Nicholas Cruz, was taken into custody by law enforcement officials without incident.

Broward County Public Schools Superintendent Robert Runcie stated there’s no evidence of another shooter’s presence. The high school and a nearby middle school were put on lockdown by the Coral Springs Police Department.

“My prayers and condolences to the families of the victims of the terrible Florida shooting,” President Donald Trump tweeted. “No child, teacher or anyone else should ever feel unsafe in an American school.”

LOCAL:
HOUSE GOP REP. BOB GOODLATTE REVEALS IMMIGRATION REFORM BILL

On Jan. 18, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte revealed an immigration reform bill at a press conference. The proposed legislation provides funds for a border wall, and ends the chain migration system and the visa lottery program.

Additionally, Goodlatte’s bill includes a path to citizenship for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients. DACA prevents individuals who were brought to the U.S. illegally as minors from being deported. However, DACA is a temporary program and lawmakers are working toward a solution for its recipients before the March 2018 deadline.
Overcrowding on campus overshadowed by Midterm and Finals Weeks

Columnist Rishmita Aich argues that JMU should focus on fixing the overcrowding issues around campus.

RISHMITA AICH  pride and prejudice

I come from a country where crowds are a staple. The city streets, coffee shops and even the crowds at Indian public restrooms look similar to the raging hordes at a typical American Black Friday sale. One would think I’m desensitized by overcrowded public places, but there’s something particularly frustrating about swimming through a crowd of busy, famished students in the middle of a school day on a campus that boasts about its expanding infrastructure. I’ve heard friends say that Main Campus is expanding at such a large scale that it might someday outgrow the town. It’s not hard to believe, looking at how five new buildings just sprouted out of nowhere within JMU’s fairly decent 2-mile square campus over the course of my college years. The whole idea is to accommodate this rapidly burgeoning student body. However, as a student who’s lived through this extensive architectural revolution of campus, I’ve only felt more and more suffocated rather than liberated with the increasing infrastructure.

I’m not sure whether to blame it on poor foot-traffic regulation or just mediocre campus planning. While East Campus looks similar to a mini Walmart in the middle of a school day on a campus that boasts about its expanding infrastructure, I think we all deserve a little architectural resurgence. It seems to me that Main Campus is a victim of its own success due to its geographically central location in Harrisonburg and JMU’s architectural resurgence.

It’s no wonder the Student Success Center on a weekday feels like Walmart in the first hour of Black Friday sales — long lines at food courts, crammed workspaces, noise that will even drown your thoughts, with only preoccupied, hungry students everywhere, silently competing against each other to secure a spot by the power outlet. It’s pretty much the same scene at Carrier Library. We won’t have to squint hard to see how these buildings, primarily designed as student workspaces, have suddenly been surrounded by three new campus buildings — the Health and Behavioral Studies building, Madison Hall and the upcoming hotel and conference center. Moreover, with the farewell of D-Hall, a major crowd of on-campus diners has diverted toward SSC and a handful of other on-campus locations for a quick meal rather than making the trip to the fairly distant D-Hub.

I realize that it requires a little from both the student community and the school to accommodate the constantly evolving campus, but lately, it seems as if students are having to bear way more on their plates than they’re supposed to. While getting food on campus is a routine a student can regulate to avoid the crowds at food courts, finding a place to study isn’t. I think we’re all entitled to a proper, quiet and accessible student workspace even in the middle of a weekday. It’s non-compromisable.

I read about a proposal passed last November, which was about JMU increasing the tuition by $1,000 for the incoming 2018-19 class. When I’m standing in a long line for a salad, or when I can’t even find a spot to sit down and study for a test, I feel a deep sense of betrayal from the school’s administration toward both its current and incoming students. A transaction like a tuition raise in exchange for the problems like overcrowding and shortage of study spaces seems like a raw deal to me. There’s a chance things might fall back into place with the inauguration of the new Main Campus dining hall. I want to believe that future students won’t have to face the same hardships as we did, but a browse through the new construction projects scheduled for the following years makes me think otherwise.

Is there nothing the JMU administration could do to ease the life of students even during a campus-wide constructional revolution? I wonder if JMU administration knows it’s going against its own motto of making the campus more student-friendly by ignoring the plight of students at overcrowded campus buildings caused by construction. I think we all deserve a little room for ourselves in our already preoccupied college lives. It’s not much we’re asking for.

Rishmita Aich is a senior media arts and design major. Contact Rishmita at aichxr@dukes.jmu.edu.

Let’s take back the library

KATHLEEN SMITH  contributing columnist

The library: For some it’s a quiet, relaxing place where one can grab a cup of coffee and chill out while doing homework. For others, it’s a last resort for when one has that research paper they’ve been procrastinating on for weeks. It doesn’t matter which kind of person you are, though, because for the people who use it, the library is a revered and respected place — until finals week, that is.

During finals and midterms weeks, the library is turned from a normal, chill atmosphere into a cacophony of noises. Yelling, talking, laughter and even crying assault one’s ears. Swarms of people come to the once-peaceful territory like an invasive species, and those who once enjoyed the library’s many comforts have nowhere to turn. The study rooms fill up weeks in advance, and it’s almost impossible to get a room the week of finals and midterms. So students cast out and must try to find a semi-quiet hall in another building, attempt to stalk people in the Student Success Center for a chair or — and this is the worst yet — they might be driven home to their dorm or apartment where Netflix and their beds are, enticing them to take a nice nap or watch just one more episode.

Students who regularly visit the library shouldn’t be kicked out during midterms or finals weeks. For a responsible student to be rewarded with this nonsense is lunacy. That’s why I propose that JMU should have an app that tracks students’ hours in the library. They do their work, spend their time in the library and at the end of the year, the app can tell when they leave by tracking their location. When midterms and finals weeks roll around, if a student has accumulated more than a certain number of hours in the library, he or she’ll have preference over students who don’t have the minimum amount to rent study rooms for blocks of time. This system keeps the loyal library-goers in the library and encourages other students to come to study more. Furthermore, the app would track the student’s location so that it knows when one enters and leaves the library. This ensures a fair system that prevents students from trying to run the clock and rack up hours.
Our athletes deserve our support, and with the growing division in our country, they’re a perfect force to unite behind.

America is the most politically polarized it’s been in decades. Friendships were severed after the 2016 election and 2017 didn’t bring the return to normalcy promised by both sides. If anything, the U.S. is even more divided on politics. On campus, tensions have stayed high for quite some time. I’ve been called names for wearing a Washington Nationals cap, due to its resemblance to the president’s signature headwear, and it was recently that a fresh tribute to a departed brother of JMU’s Omega Psi Phi chapter was painted over with a “Trump 2016” message. But we don’t need to stay so discordant.

In political science, there’s a phenomenon called the “rally round the flag” effect. In short, it’s the observation that when a country is attacked or goes to war, the approval rating of the head of state skyrocket. Two weeks after 9/11, George W. Bush hit the highest presidential approval rating of all time — 90 percent. The idea is that we become more proud of who we are when there’s an outside force attacking us. I call for a similar thing to happen during the Olympics, albeit more peacefully. We’ve wasted the past three years locked in a political cage fight. We paused briefly during the 2016 Olympics, but the presidential campaign and the fact that both major candidates largely ignored the games drew away from their unifying effect. Now is our time to stop fighting among ourselves and put our competitive American spirit to use, cheering on our Olympians against the other countries.

In the Olympics, we’re given the gift of having something to unify behind that’s not politics. By making mutual connections over supporting the same bobsleders and hockey players, we can move toward a deeper mutual respect and empathy. Politics isn’t the whole of life, but rather an accident of it. When Democrats and Republicans come together to cheer on the best our union has to offer, it lays a base relationship.

Chairman of the JMU Women’s Hockey Team, Erin Heintzelman, said that it’s easier to see the people who disagree with you on guns and government spending as people and recognize that the difference in opinion doesn’t mean anyone is better or worse than the other. If we can’t pull ourselves together this February, it’ll be dispiriting. After all, North and South Korea, two of the most politically different countries on the planet, marched in the opening ceremony together and fielded a co-national women’s hockey team at the games. One country is communist-authoritarian, one is capitalist-democratic; one is the sworn eternal enemy of the U.S., and the other is one of its closest allies. They’re separated by a minefield and a history of conflict, yet their common Korean identity, divergent for almost 75 years now, is enough to bring them to march and compete together, if only for one event. We must learn from the Koreans how to overcome differences much smaller than theirs to celebrate our commonalities. Our national identity must be strengthened, not politics.

Luke Borman is a junior international affairs major. Contact Luke at bormanln@dukes.jmu.edu.
JMU should use app to record students’ study hours

Kathleen Smith argues that students with more study hours should have priority booking study rooms.

This app would help every student with their goals. For those who don’t feel encouraged or lack the willpower to go to the library, it provides an incentive. For students who already use the library regularly, it offers a reward. And in both cases, it also offers the chance at better grades and GPA. A study from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln found that library usage has a positive correlation with a student’s academic success. The same study also found that students who used the library had a lower dropout rate than students who didn’t.

Of course, this doesn’t mean that the library will automatically get you a 4.0, but anything helps. This app might be the defining factor for good grades for a freshman who doesn’t have healthy study habits yet, an upperclassman who’s overwhelmed with coursework or anyone who might need a safe and healthy environment to study. JMU is a school that students attend to succeed, and this one small change could cause someone to “be the change” our future needs.

Kathleen Smith is a senior communication studies major. Contact Kathleen at smit27ke@dukes.jmu.edu.
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By ABBY CHURCH
The Breeze

There are very few places JMU voice professor Kevin McMillan hasn’t performed. On a Wednesday night in his colorful office full of picture frames, McMillan sat at his desk with the gold embellishments on his Grammy plaque catching the light behind him, documenting all the places he’s performed, from Barcelona to Prague. He paused briefly, mentioning that he not only met the Queen of England, but sang for her too.

“The picture’s right behind you,” McMillan said.

And there it was. A 1992 version of the man sitting in front of me stood beaming in a red tie with none other than Queen Elizabeth II on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ontario, for a Canada Day celebration. He smiled as he recalled the moment.

“She was absolutely lovely that day,” McMillan said. “The picture’s right behind you,” McMillan said.

“Initially, I was, of course, a performer who taught a bit, but then I turned into a teacher who performed a bit,” McMillan said.

McMillan came to JMU in 2009 after being persuaded by his colleague to take a retiring baritone’s position. After years of performing, McMillan was happy to settle into a more relaxed lifestyle.

“Getting to see the world from that perspective has colored my life,” McMillan said. “I spent a lot of time in hotel rooms, and I have to say that I don’t need much more of that. I mean, I love the repertoire, I love performing, I love all of that, but being in one spot here in Harrisonburg and being able to live comfortably and in a community of peers and students ... It’s a different life.”

Since arriving at JMU, McMillan has married fellow JMU professor of voice, Carrie Stevens. They’re coming up on five years of marriage in June. Citing McMillan’s skills as a linguist and “gorgeous voice,” Stevens is impressed with all McMillan has done in his international career.

“He has had a very, very rich career and is a wonderful sort of academic and social place that I think everybody from a freshman student up to me senses. It’s just different. I’ve been to a lot of different institutions, but JMU inspires ... this sense of community and willingness to make things happen as opposed to waiting for them to happen, and that goes right from a freshman student right through to faculty and administration.”

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Erik Grendahl, a JMU alumnus (’16), is a former student of McMillan’s. Having come to JMU prior to his acceptance to explore music program options, Grendahl met with McMillan for a lesson. Later, Grendahl was accepted to JMU and began training with McMillan.

“JMU is a wonderful sort of academic and social place that is still around and why people still come to see it.”

McMillan’s passion for JMU and his students is evident. Having been to many places in his life, he’s glad to be somewhere that inspires.

“I’m really thrilled to be here,” McMillan said. “JMU, the more you get to know it, it’s really a wonderful sort of academic and social place that I think everybody from a freshman student up to me senses. It’s just different. I’ve been to a lot of different institutions, but JMU inspires ... this sense of community and willingness to make things happen as opposed to waiting for them to happen, and that goes right from a freshman student right through to faculty and administration.”

World-renowned JMU voice professor’s lifetime of success assures students anything is possible

By ABBY CHURCH
The Breeze

There are very few places JMU voice professor Kevin McMillan hasn’t performed. On a Wednesday night in his colorful office full of picture frames, McMillan sat at his desk with the gold embellishments on his Grammy plaque catching the light behind him, documenting all the places he’s performed, from Barcelona to Prague. He paused briefly, mentioning that he not only met the Queen of England, but sang for her too.

“The picture’s right behind you,” McMillan said.

And there it was. A 1992 version of the man sitting in front of me stood beaming in a red tie with none other than Queen Elizabeth II on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ontario, for a Canada Day celebration. He smiled as he recalled the moment.

“She was absolutely lovely that day,” McMillan said. “The picture’s right behind you,” McMillan said.

“Initially, I was, of course, a performer who taught a bit, but then I turned into a teacher who performed a bit,” McMillan said.

McMillan came to JMU in 2009 after being persuaded by his colleague to take a retiring baritone’s position. After years of performing, McMillan was happy to settle into a more relaxed lifestyle.

“Getting to see the world from that perspective has colored my life,” McMillan said. “I spent a lot of time in hotel rooms, and I have to say that I don’t need much more of that. I mean, I love the repertoire, I love performing, I love all of that, but being in one spot here in Harrisonburg and being able to live comfortably and in a community of peers and students ... It’s a different life.”

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**Worth the gamble**

Local man wins highly esteemed auctioneer award

By EMMA KORYNTA

The Breeze

Mark has been interested in pursuing auctioneering since he was 17 years old, but he acknowledges the field has changed since he first started.

He used to write out tickets after every item was sold and bring them to a clerk at the sale. The clerk would then sort all tickets into boxes labeled with corresponding numbers to the auction paddles. At the end, a customer would retrieve their tickets from their numbered box to pay. Now, Mark said, it’s just a button on a computer.

“Back in the day, when I was growing up … I can remember going to sales with my parents and it was almost like entertainment,” Mark said. “That’s where they used to go and they would catch up on the gossip and socialize.”

Mark credits some of his success to a mentor who helped him get his feet off the ground. He first started working with experienced auctioneer Kendall Bennett in Staunton, Virginia, when Mark was in high school.

“He was the only person that was willing to give me a chance,” Mark said. “He was the only person that was willing to talk to me. I probably wouldn’t be where I’m at today if it wasn’t for him.”

While he acknowledges the time spent training Mark, Kendall feels that Mark worked hard on his own to be where he is today. To Kendall, Mark truly earned and deserves the Jake Horney Memorial Award.

“There’s nothing he can’t do. He can jump in and sell just about anything that there is,” Kendall said. “I’m gonna say it, he’s done it and done it and done it over and over and he’s not doing anything but getting better and better. I’m just proud of him as I can be … If he was sick tomorrow and had a sale and couldn’t do it, I’d go do it for him free.”

Betty, Kendall’s wife, also worked with Mark for many years. She said she and her husband nominated him and were asked to present the award at the VAA Convention earlier this year.

“It was very humbling to see that you could help somebody start out as a young person and see them grow and develop and become a successful businessperson,” Betty said.

While the Craigs frequently sell household items, furniture, linens, tools and collectibles, Betty said her husband served as a mentor for Mark in his beginning years as an auctioneer.

The Bennetts have seen Mark in action, in the middle of an auction sale. She reflected on how it’s felt to watch him have his own successful career.

“We’re very impressed, he’s done such a good job,” Betty said. “He’s a very nice person, he’s a very fair businessperson. The general public that deals with him, I feel like they get an honest person to deal with. We recommend him all the time, we really do … He’s our No. 1 go-to auctioneer.”

The Craigs originally had other jobs in addition to their auctioneer business. Within the last five years, both Mark and Teresa have started to work with the auctions full time.

Currently, Mark Craig Auctions has become a family business of sorts, as the Craigs run the auctions together. Mark feels that the people that he’s met through the auctions have become family.

“You know, it’s great,” Mark said. “I had someone tell me one time, ‘If you can find something that you enjoy doing and are able to do it, you’ll never work a day in your life.’ I’m gonna say, it’s a lot of truth to that — a lot of truth.”

CONTACT Emma Korynta at breezenews@gmail.com. For more on the culture, arts and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Twitter @Breeze_Culture.
Choreography connections

Dukettes host workshop for Harrisonburg community

By ANDREA BRUSIG
The Breeze

Smiles and matching T-shirts will fill JMU’s Convocation Center as young dancers of all ages line up to perform with JMU’s dance team, the Dukettes. The team holds its annual clinic, Dukette for a Day, each spring, and this Sunday, it’ll be held at UREC.

The workshop is meant to connect the Harrisonburg community with the team and give dancers a special, one-of-a-kind glimpse of what it’s like to be a Dukette.

The workshop is split into four levels: beginner, intermediate, advanced and elite. The elite level is new this year and caters more toward high school students and college freshmen who are interested in auditioning for the team in the future.

Once each age group learns a dance routine, all participants come together at the end for a big group routine. The participants perform with the Dukettes during halftime of a JMU men’s basketball game later in the day as well.

“It’s a fun way to reach out to the community, get people involved and kind of see a little bit of the behind-the-scenes of what we do,” Paige Ensminger, co-captain and senior interdisciplinary liberal studies major, said. “We usually just go out on the court for about two minutes, do our dance and run off — but this allows them to see, kind of, how we practice and what else we do.”

The Dukettes love everything about the workshop. They enjoy engaging with the Harrisonburg community to building relationships with the participants, the team knows it impacts young dancers.

“This event is really special for our team, because it allows us to really see how much the community appreciates what we do,” Maddie Henwood, a co-captain and senior biology major, said. “We see how much our performances actually affect them, and that’s something that’s always mentioned to us every year — how excited they are and how excited parents are to have their children dancing with us, and I think that’s something really special.”

Henwood says the workshop is fully planned out, except for the ice-breaker games the dancers play when they first arrive. She loves how it’s different each year.

“My favorite part is once everyone comes into the room, we do really fun warm-up games with the dancers,” Henwood said. “It just sets the energy in the room and gets everyone really excited for the day.”

While this event has been highly anticipated by the team in the past, this year is unlike any other. The Dukettes’ head coach resigned at the beginning of the 17-18 season, meaning the team had to plan the workshop on its own. However, that hasn’t stopped it from carrying out the special tradition.

“They gain a bit of confidence, because getting out in front of a huge crowd is a big deal — it’s a completely different experience, and it brings out a different side of you,” Ensminger said.

Although the workshop is mainly designed for young dancers to learn and gain performance skills, the team members say they’ve learned different leadership skills and accomplish just as much as participants do.

Victoria Tilson, a junior officer and junior sport and recreation management major, says the team practices effective leadership strategies with the kids.

“I think we also learn how to teach others — there are some kids who get frustrated or want to sit down, so we all have to figure out how to get those kids to participate,” Tilson said.

This year, the team hopes the clinic won’t only attract younger children, but high school and college-aged students who are looking to take their dance experience up to the next level with the Dukettes.

“It’s a great insight for high schoolers to kind of see what a college dance team is like,” Alexandra Hafner, a junior officer and junior hospitality management major, said. “They get to meet the team, meet the leadership and they can get some feedback from us and hear what they need to work on.”

At the end of the day, seeing the positive responses from participants and parents are the highlight for the team.

“I think when they walk up to the game, and you see that girl who gave you a hard time during the day dancing on the court, it’s so exciting and rewarding,” Tilson said.

“It’s a cool experience to see our final product at the end of the day.”

CONTACT Andrea Brusig at brusigap@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.

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Family: It’s not just who you know, but who you are. It’s not the people you spend time with, but the ones you go through everything with. A family isn’t always connected by genetics or history, but by triumphs, trials and love.

Make no mistake — everyone on the JMU women’s basketball team is of the same family. They may not look the same, standing from 5 feet 7 inches to 6 feet 4 inches. They may not come from the same places or have the same stories, but when they take the court, they are one.

“We’re definitely the closest, [most] tight-knit group I’ve ever played with,” redshirt senior forward Tasia Butler said. “When I say ‘sisters,’ I don’t use that term loosely. We’re very close ... at any given moment, I can come to any of them and I can have a shoulder to cry on or someone to laugh with.”

It’s clear there’s a lot of love in the JMU locker room, and the team’s mentality of selflessness and sacrifices has translated to success on the court.

“We’ve gotten a lot closer, everyone bonds very well and it makes a big difference when you see us in the game,” sophomore guard Leslie Barrier said.

This season, JMU is 16-8 overall and at the top of the CAA standings with a 12-1 mark in conference play. Many doubted JMU’s ability to compete after star guard Precious Hall, who led the team in minutes, points and rebounds, graduated last year. Hall took three times more shots than the next-highest JMU player and had a usage rate of 44 percent, meaning she shot, assisted or rebounded on nearly half of all JMU possessions.

“A lot of different players have stepped up and developed their role because we lost such a key player like Precious Hall,” Butler said.

When asked if JMU needed a ball-dominant scorer to make it far in the tournament, Butler clearly stated that the Dukes already have a leader capable of taking the team to the promised land. Without hesitation, she said sophomore guard Kamiah Smalls has emerged as a shining star and will prove it in the playoffs.

“[Smalls] is so young and talented and she hasn’t even reached her potential,” Butler said.

“She’s already doing amazing things for this team, leading us in various ways through scoring or by being a vocal coach.”

After co-starring with Hall last season and finishing second on the team in points and rebounds while leading the Dukes in field goal percentage, Smalls is enjoying a breakout campaign.

“I was pushed out of my comfort zone a little more,” Smalls said. “[I’ve had] to take more shots and [make] sure to get my teammates involved as much as possible. Growing and taking my game to the next level has been my biggest challenge.”

The second-year standout is averaging a team-high 15.9 points per game and ready for the tough road ahead. With the support of her teammates, Smalls is confident she’ll be able to come through when the lights are shining brightest and the season is on the line.

“Those moments are definitely something I prep myself for every day,” Smalls said. “I’m making sure I’m doing everything to make sure my mind [is] on point.”

JMU may be less dominant than last year, but under second-year head coach Sean O’Regan, the Dukes are in prime position to be the No. 1 seed in the CAA for the fourth time in five years.

“Everyone’s just accepted their role on the team,” Barrier said. “Everyone’s super confident in each other and very positive.”

It’s easy to see JMU’s bond off the court has resulted in buckets on it. The team doesn’t revolve around one star, and while Smalls may be the leader, everyone has stepped up this season.

There’s no question the team has a bond that can’t be broken, but tough tests are ahead. In less than three weeks, the CAA tournament begins and JMU faces the reality of playing single-elimination games.

“The [upcoming postseason] is exciting, but it’s also discouraging because we won’t have as many games left [together],” Smalls said.

While winning means a lot, it’s evident the team has its priorities in order, as the Dukes value family over everything. There may be struggles ahead, but JMU aims to persevere — moving forward, knowing their teammates have their backs.

CONTACT James Faris at farisja@dukes.jmu.edu. For more basketball coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.
Transfer brings fresh look to the Dukes

By JACK FITZPATRICK
The Breeze

Leaving a team where you were a solidified starter and seeing production drop to one where you have to fight for a spot is a tough choice to make. That’s the choice sophomore utility player Debbie Stuart made when she decided to transfer to JMU.

Stuart started her collegiate softball career at Shepherd University, a Division II school in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. There, she started 58 of 60 games and saw action in all 60. She posted a .258 batting average and led the team with 15 errors.

Now, as the new season is underway, the transition from Division II softball to Division I is in full effect for Stuart. This is especially true because she was unable to get going right away due to an ankle injury that caused her to miss crucial preseason practice time.

“It is definitely time-consuming,” Stuart said. “You gotta manage your time well with school and all the other extra stuff you have going on, but it’s not that big of a difference. I’ve been able to adjust well and focus on my classes as well as softball, so it has been good.”

Now that Stuart is starting to find the rhythm of the game at the Division I level, she’ll have a chance to get some playing time. With head coach Loren LaPorte’s philosophy of not slotted players and giving everyone a chance week in and week out, Stuart can make a push to the starting lineup.

“The chalkboard is clean week after week, so if you come to practice and win the position, you win the position,” LaPorte said.

During JMU’s trip south of the border at the Puerto Vallarta College Challenge, Stuart didn’t see the field in action and is still working to get into the swing of things.

LaPorte sees the potential that Stuart brings. She believes Stuart can make an impact during her time here. Stuart is a versatile player who can play anywhere on the field. LaPorte believes that once she gets the footwork down, Stuart can be plugged in and provide production right away.

“She is going to be one of those utility players,” LaPorte said. “If we need her somewhere, she can play anywhere in the infield and she can probably play the outfield, we just haven’t put her there ... She is very versatile.”

Coming to JMU from Shepherd was a tough move. JMU isn’t an easy school to come into after playing in another system. JMU uses different aspects of the game that are unique to the program. As well as moving up a division, to add on to the uniqueness of JMU, the caliber of players — especially pitchers — will provide an added obstacle for Stuart to get over.

“When she came in, she had to learn all of our footwork,” LaPorte said. “We are very disciplined when it comes to footwork, so she had to learn all of that in the infield.”

While Stuart hasn’t had the opportunity to help with the team during games, her personality and drive off the field is proving just as important.

“She is always pushing herself really hard, which now makes me push myself harder,” senior utility player Ashley Samuels said. “I know it motivates the rest of our teammates.”

Stuart is a spark for the Dukes, which is essential after reigning NFCA player of the year Megan Good went down for the season. Stuart provides a new and experienced voice and energy to the locker room.

“She always has a really positive attitude and energy about her,” Samuels said.

Stuart, whether she’s out on the diamond or cheering her new teammates on from the dugout, believes that the team will have yet another solid season.

“If I think we are going to do really well,” Stuart said. “We’ve got a young team, but I think everyone is going to step up. I think we are going to go very far this year.”

CONTACT Jack Fitzpatrick at fitzpajg@dukes.jmu.edu. For more softball coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.
Should the Giants retire Barry Bonds’ jersey?

Bonds’ No. 25 should be immortalized

By BRANDON ELLIS
The Breeze

Barry Bonds is one of the greatest left fielders to ever play the game of baseball. He’s the all-time leader in home runs with 762 in his illustrious career. Many of them were hit into McCovey Cove in San Francisco. That brings us to later this year, when the San Francisco Giants plan to retire Bonds’ No. 25 at a home game in August against the other team he played for — the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Bonds wasn’t only a great player in San Francisco, but he had a great career in the Steel City as well. According to Baseball Reference, in his seven years in Pittsburgh, he had a batting average of .275 with 176 home runs and 556 RBIs. Bonds also won two MVP awards and three Gold Gloves during his time with the Pirates.

Despite Bonds’ steroid usage, his career transcends the drugs due to being an all-around great player before he began taking steroids. Bonds probably wouldn’t have hit the 73 home runs in 2001 if he didn’t take performance-enhancing drugs. But, he probably would’ve hit at least 30 because he had at least 30+ home runs throughout most of his career, aside from his first few seasons when he was in his early 20s. As he was known for being a power hitter most of his career, Bonds didn’t need to use steroids to be successful, so it’s unfortunate that he did. But we’re talking about a number retirement, not a Hall of Fame bust in Cooperstown.

The Giants have every right to retire Bonds’ number if they feel it’s correct to do so. Even though it might not be the most popular decision within the baseball community, the Giants fans who grew up idolizing Bonds will appreciate this gesture. Bonds created a lot of great memories in the Bay Area. This includes the numerous home runs hit into McCovey Cove that fans in kayaks would fight over just because it’s a Barry Bonds home-run ball. There’s the moment in the 2002 All-Star Game in Milwaukee when former Minnesota Twins center fielder Torii Hunter robbed Bonds of a home run and Bonds had a little fun with him by grabbing him when he was heading to the dugout. Even when Bonds hit No. 756 to break Hank Aaron’s record, it was a great memory to be a part of as a baseball fan — even though we all knew he cheated to get there.

Bonds is a once-in-a-lifetime baseball player who created memories for fans. Even though he shouldn’t get into Cooperstown because of steroid use, he should have his number retired by the Giants because he made the team a spectacle before the championships they ended up winning. Giants fans should and will give Bonds a huge ovation on Aug. 11 when his number is finally retired at AT&T Park.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE
Cheaters shouldn’t be commemorated

By Connor McCarthy
The Breeze

On Aug. 11, the San Francisco Giants will retire No. 25, which belonged to former outfielder Barry Bonds. In 15 seasons with San Francisco, Bonds was able to hit 546 home runs while maintaining a .312 batting average, a .666 slugging percentage and racking up five Gold Glove Awards. Those are numbers more than worthy of a team retiring his jersey number, but the fact of the matter is Bonds used steroids, and no matter how good his numbers ended up, he disrespected the game in a way that’s unforgivable in the baseball world.

Bonds was confirmed to have taken steroids in his playing days, and for that, he’ll never be accepted into the MLB Hall of Fame. That’s why I’m surprised the Giants are willing to honor Bonds in such a way. Some may say that Bonds was such a naturally gifted athlete that he would’ve broken the home-run record anyway, and there’s no denying that may be true. Bonds was one of the most talented players of his generation and it was awe-inspiring to watch his tremendous power at the plate and steady glove in the outfield. However, there’s truly no way of knowing how much steroids affected Bonds’ game, and we can’t just assume he would’ve been just as good without them.

Honoring Bonds is also completely unfair to current and past athletes who’ve played the game cleanly. I can’t imagine how it must feel for athletes who pride themselves on staying away from performance enhancers to watch Bonds get honored in a way that few other players ever do. There’s just something wrong with having Bonds’ name beside Hall of Famer Willie Mays as a player whose jersey number has been retired by the Giants. Bonds tried to get a leg up on everyone, and for that, he doesn’t deserve to be held to a higher standard than the players he cheated.

At the end of the day, there’s no way of making everyone shame Bonds for his actions. Many people want to remember him as the great player he was and forget about what he did. Bonds may be honored by the Giants in August, but his name will always be tarnished in the minds of baseball purists everywhere.

Contact	Connor McCarthy
at mccartcs@dukes.jmu.edu.

For more sports coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.
COME OUT TO THE CONVO TONIGHT!

JMU vs. College of Charleston
@ 7 PM

**Student Promotions:**

Dunkin Donuts Break Up Day
T-shirt Swap - First 200 students bring in an old t-shirt from another university that you want to "break up" with and you’ll receive a new, JMU Dunkin Donuts t-shirt.

JMU Bookstore Gift Card Giveaway
Game 1 of 2 - Students who attend BOTH this game and the men's home finale on Feb. 22 will be entered to win a $300 JMU Bookstore gift card. Winner will be selected at the Feb. 22 game. Must be present to win.
MADISON MARKETPLACE

Madison Marketplace is open for business, and all text-only listings are FREE! Post job listings, announcements, rentals and more using our online placement tool. Ads run two weeks online and in two print editions.

JOBS

Horseback Riding Instructor in the Blue Ridge Mountains
Blue Ridge Mountains, NC Summer camp seeks horseback riding staff. Mentor kids in building confidence and delight as riders, while having a meaningful summer of fun, fellowship, laughter, and adventure. No outdoor experience necessary—we will teach you if you’d like to learn! Traditional wilderness camp with Christian ideals. TwoTunicamps.com (828)884-6834

Housing

Seeking Summer Home Rental
Seeking single family home in Harrisonburg to rent for roughly two summer months (dates flexible). Looking to spend time with family over the summer in Harrisonburg. Currently living in St Petersburg, FL open to house swap. Thank you, Michael.

A Farm House in Keezletown for Rent
A farm house in Keezletown, VA: two bedrooms and one bathroom will be available starting from March 1st, 2018. Rent $600-$800. More info: https://post.craigslist.org/manage/6478772951

SALE

Printers
Art Printers For Sale
Canon Pro-1 and Canon MG7520 To settle estate of professional photographer. $100 each. May be seen in downtown Harrisonburg across from Jack Brown’s. Text or call Chris Bland at 540-476-0823 or email to geraldcbland@icloud.com.

COMMUNITY

Scholar of Religion and Culture to Spark Discussion on Religion and Racial Equality
Café Veritas is hosting “Race in America: Does Christianity Help or Hinder Racial Equality?” with speaker Jemar Tisby Wednesday, February 21, 6:30pm at Skyline Middle School. Jemar is the president of The Witness: A Black Christian Collective where he writes about race, religion, and culture. Lecture, Q&A and refreshments.

SERVICES

Moving Services
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