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Due to cold weather, bee populations are decreasing.
Student claims JMU violated FERPA laws in sexual assault case

BY MADISSON HAYNES AND MATT WEYRICH

The Breeze

A JMU student who was warned by a university official to not contact the media about her ongoing sexual assault case now says the university violated her privacy by forwarding an email she sent "in good faith" directly to her case adviser. The email, sent in light of a previous article published by The Breeze, was intended only for Office of Student Accountability and Restorative Practices' Senior Assistant Director Tammy Knott. The message was later forwarded to other university employees.

Sophomore social work major Caroline Whitlow emailed Knott, the official who warned her against going public with her case, on April 12 apologizing for the multiple references to her in The Breeze article. That email, which Whitlow has given The Breeze permission to read and report on, has since been sent to JMU administrators outside OSARP, which Whitlow and her attorney believe is a violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

"It shouldn't surprise me at this point," Whitlow said after learning the email had been sent to others. "I had no idea that something that I told her in good faith would literally be forwarded ... I stand by everything that was in [The Breeze] article." FERPA permits schools to disclose information in student records without parental consent only to "school officials with legitimate educational interest," among eight other conditions. Special education attorney Grace Kim of Fairfax is well-versed in FERPA laws. She believes the email sent to Knott wasn't an educational record, "unless of course she's writing it because she's afraid of some kind of retaliation that she might experience as a student."

Whitlow sent the email after being surprised by the number of times Knott was mentioned in The Breeze article. She didn't want to harm their adviser-advisee relationship or negatively affect her case, which she's appealing because the accused was found "not responsible" in an initial hearing.

Director of Communications and University Spokesperson Bill Wyatt said he didn't know if forwarding an email sent to an OSARP representative by a student pressing charges in an ongoing case violated FERPA. However, he believes the university strives to protect student records.

"Appropriate steps are being taken to ensure that individuals involved with student educational records are aware of their responsibilities to protect the privacy of these records," Wyatt said in an email.

Whitlow has since promoted a silent protest scheduled for Friday morning aimed at changing the methods OSARP uses to handle sexual assault cases. Several students have since reached out to her expressing their frustration with the OSARP process.

"I was shocked by how many messages I was receiving of people with similar experiences," Whitlow said. "It was just a much larger issue of other people's sexual assault cases being mishandled and covered up ... Something has to change. It's not OK. It needs to be taken seriously, there needs to be accountability."

According to data received through a Freedom of Information Act request, 21 students were charged by OSARP with sexual misconduct violations during the 2014-15 and 2015-16 academic years. These charges resulted in two expulsions, six suspensions, 10 "other disciplinary sanctions" and 10 "not responsible" verdicts. In the two school years since (2016-18), OSARP has charged five students with similar violations, which include one expulsion, one suspension, two "other disciplinary sanctions" and one "not responsible" verdict. Wendy Lushbaugh, the director of OSARP, is unsure why there's been a 76 percent decrease in sexual misconduct cases being reported over the past two years — a timeframe that also coincides with her taking over as director. Whitlow thinks students are often discouraged from pursuing charges, leading to a lower number of cases.

"We don't discourage students from coming forward with cases," Lushbaugh said. "I would have to individually talk to a person who felt that way and discover why they felt that way."

Wyatt said the accountability process is difficult for many students to go through. He said members of OSARP ask students if they're sure they'd like to continue.

"When Wendy's office or our Title IX officer or counselors or whoever it may be are talking to people, they may say, 'You don't have to go through this process,' or provide them resources that can help them through that process," Wyatt said. "But we would never discourage anyone from reporting."

Wyatt added that JMU works to provide resources for both the accused and accuser in sexual assault cases. April is sexual assault awareness month, and both JMU's Office of Residence Life and University Health Center are hosting events through April 30 to promote the message across campus. While Title IX is federally regulated, the methods OSARP takes to hear cases are open to the discretion of the university.

"The federal government requires us to adjudicate these cases, and that means that in the end, there's going to be a winner and a loser," Wyatt said. "We take into account the individual circumstances of every case, and that's how we hear those cases that we try to provide resources for everybody involved."

University officials say OSARP is open to students' input regarding the office's methods. Whitlow and the other protesters are aiming to change specific policies, such as increasing qualifications for case-review board members, increasing the severity of penalties handed down to students found responsible and decreasing the time between the filing of a case and its final decision.

"If there's any feedback someone would want to provide, it doesn't mean that they'll definitely see something implemented," Lushbaugh said. "But we're happy to entertain any feedback that would come to our office."

Whitlow's appeal hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, four months after she initially reported the alleged sexual assault to OSARP. Whitlow thinks members of the accountability office violated her trust, especially after the circulation of the email she sent to Knott.

"I have extremely bad PTSD symptoms when I see my attacker literally every day," Whitlow said. "I want to be able to come here and have my education without being interrupted by that and it just became this whole thing that I was not prepared for."

CONTACT Madisson Haynes and Matt Weyrich at breezeeditors@gmail.com. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.
A pollination population

Beekeepers experience loss of hives due to winter weather

BY MADISSON HAYNES
The Breeze

Jars of freshly gathered honey line the wooden countertops. Syrup drips from a jar’s lid, creating a pool of nectar. The faint buzz of a small honeybee colony is hushed by a gust of wind, while the smell of the golden extract wafts through the honey house. A thin paper label wrapped around one of the remaining jars is stained with a yellowed tint and marked “Knapp’s Bees.”

Tom Knapp, 57, is a local beekeeper who’s been tending to hives for seven years. He’s the owner of Knapp’s Bees and a member of the Shenandoah Valley Beekeepers Association. Tom, like many other beekeepers across the U.S., continuously loses hives year after year. Tom’s loss in particular was due to a combination of cold temperatures and varroa mites, a parasitic tick-like bug that latches onto bees. hive beetles — a species similar to cockroaches — are natural predators of the bee population. She’s been involved with the SVBA since 2001 and is the longest serving member.

“I love gardening,” McKown said. “I was a botany major. I was always fascinated by insects.”

With a small enclosure in her kitchen, McKown has the opportunity to visit her tenants as much or as little as she’d like. She prefers to bee-keep as a hobby, but often teaches classes at local schools.

The loss of their bees hasn’t stopped McKown and Tom from beekeeping. McKown in particular likes to keep her beekeeping process natural and build her colonies by swarm catching — capturing half a hive that’s separated from the rest. She’s hopeful her determination and patience will repopulate her hives.

“The way you handle your bees has a lot to do with how they will react to you,” McKown said. Tom and McKown spend time educating the public on beekeeping and the environmental benefits of the practice. The SVBA are only a small portion of a larger population of beekeepers in the the U.S. who are facing a challenge in replenishing their hives. Despite a devastating winter, beekeepers are moving forward and aiming to repopulate their colonies.

“I think one of the neat things about what Tom is doing is that he’s just an average person in the community who just took an interest in bees and I would love to see more people do that,” Kristin said. “I would like to see him be an example to others in the community that this could be done to help the bee populations stay healthy and vibrant.”

CONTACT Madisson Haynes at haynesslx@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.
Invasive species
JMU biology professor conducts research to control Burmese pythons

By ZACHARY HARRIS
The Breeze

After escaping from research facilities and numerous pet owners, Burmese pythons have become an invasive species in the Everglades region of Florida. If the python population is left unchecked, it may spread to the southeastern U.S. and Gulf Coast. The snake can grow to lengths greater than 17 feet and swallow animals as large as an alligator.

Invasive species are animals not native to their present location and become detrimental due to rapid reproduction at the expense of other animals. Rocky Parker, a biology professor at JMU, has dedicated his time to working in Florida and finding a solution to this problem.

Parker began studying snake chemical ecology as an undergraduate student. He started working with pythons when U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists Michael Avery and Bruce Kimball approached him about applying his Ph.D. work to invasive snake species.

“I actually walked in on one python that we were tracking,” Parker said. “And this python was so astute. It was watching us at great distances and changing its behavior based on our approach. You wouldn’t think that about snakes.”

Burmese pythons have wreaked havoc on native animals. One study by the Royal Society concluded they could potentially bring great harm to the Everglades ecosystem. The study found that over 77 percent of rabbit fatalities resulted from predation by Burmese pythons. Parker is currently researching the potential of hormonal manipulation to control the Burmese python.

There are two parts to this method. First, a radio transmitter is attached to a male Burmese python so its location can be monitored. Second, scientists can exploit python-mating season to implant female pheromones in male snakes to make them smell like the former.

Male snakes would theoretically congregate, attracted by the female pheromone, while scientists travel to the radio transmitter’s location to collect and euthanize the pythons. Paige Baedke, a senior biology major, explained how female pheromones are acquired.

“They shed their skin multiple times a year,” Baedke said. “The USDA houses them and then they send us boxes of the shed skin. And then I’m able to weigh that shed skin, put it into hexane, which causes the lipid and the pheromone to be leached out of the skin without degrading the actual shed.”

Another aspect of the study is to examine how male pythons behave when a female pheromone is introduced. Sanjiv Jayamohan, a freshman biology major, is assisting Parker in this endeavor.

“They show specific behaviors while following these scent trails and we have like six specific ones,” Jayamohan said. “And then we classify the behaviors and then we quantify it in actual numbers.”
Behaviors included tongue flicks per minute, route choice and turns. Additionally, the experiment took note of head raises and shakes. It showed that male pythons had a strong preference for female scent trails and displayed higher rates of tongue flicking when following a female scent. Tongue flicking is how snakes investigate and express interest in chemicals throughout their environment.

Parker has used similar methods to control invasive snake species such as the brown tree snake in Guam. Parker stated he successfully manipulated males to produce female pheromones and attract other males during this project.

Controlling the Burmese python population in the Everglades is a considerable challenge according to Parker. This particular snake species is highly capable of blending into its environment and spotting humans from great distances.

Parker stated that Burmese pythons are opportunistic predators capable of eating anything they can fit into their mouth. Additionally, Burmese pythons can create excellent underground hiding locations through burrowing.

"It's a lot more complicated than I thought it was going to be because the pythons are really hard to see," Parker said. "And also, they're really good at burrowing. When they spend the night somewhere out in the field, they aren't just sleeping exposed in the environment."

The average Burmese python can lay up to 100 eggs. It takes approximately three months for offspring to hatch, and mothers have been observed stealing mammal burrows to shelter their eggs.

"The other thing that really sucks about snakes is that they don't have to have a mate to reproduce," Parker said. "They're called parthenogenetic, so they can produce babies without mating with someone else. They can clone themselves."

Burmese pythons have driven multiple mammals in the Everglades to the brink of extinction. According to Jayamohan, bobcats, raccoons and foxes are virtually nonexistent in the Everglades due to predation by Burmese pythons. While these snakes are slowly making their way north, Parker is concerned about possible damage to ecosystems outside of the U.S.

"The major concern though is pythons moving from southern Florida to isolated island ecosystems," Parker said. "We know that whenever snakes get onto islands, they can wipe out all native vertebrates that are present."

CONTACT Zachary Harris at harriszc@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.

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IN BRIEF:

LOCAL:
Three sentenced for heroin trafficking

On Monday, three members of a heroin trafficking ring were sentenced at a federal district court in Harrisonburg. Adrian Edwards received a sentence of 15 years and 10 months while his girlfriend, Alisha Stocking, was sentenced to four years in prison. The judge also sentenced Randall Freeman to a four-year prison term. Police estimate that a 13-person operation brought over 1,000 grams of heroin from Baltimore to the Front Royal area between 2013-16. Multiple law enforcement agencies, including the Drug Enforcement Administration, Baltimore City Police Department and the Loudon County Sheriff’s Office, conducted the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Donald Wolthuis is responsible for prosecuting the case.

NATIONAL:
Barbara Bush dies

Barbara Bush, the former first lady, died Tuesday. Last Sunday, the Bush family announced she no longer wished to seek medical treatment, opting to pursue comfort care in her home. Bush was born in Rye, New York, in 1925. During her time as first lady, Bush’s flagship cause was improving literacy among both children and adults. She subsequently created the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, which is still in operation today. Bush’s time as first lady ended when her husband lost the 1992 election to Bill Clinton. George W. Bush, her son, was elected president in 2000 while her other son, Jeb Bush, became Florida’s governor in 1999.

WORLD:
CIA director meets with Kim Jong Un

CIA Director and Secretary of State nominee Michael Pompeo had a clandestine meeting with North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un earlier this month. President Donald Trump confirmed a meeting occurred through Twitter on Wednesday. The purpose of Pompeo’s meeting was to lay the groundwork for a potential summit between Trump and Kim. The last senior U.S. official to meet with a North Korean leader was former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. The U.S. has no formal diplomatic relations with North Korea, so any communication occurs through diplomatic backchannels. South Korean President Moon Jae-in is scheduled to meet directly with Kim next week.
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Keep calm and optimize your stress

MOLLY SYKES | contributing columnist

With summer break quickly approaching, students become frantic about their last opportunities to keep their grades up, with the biggest opportunity being finals. Many students dread finals week, which creates feelings of stress across campus. Luckily, it’s possible to create a positive connection with the stress that comes along with finals and projects.

In 2003, psychologist Kelly McGonigal gave a TED Talk called “How To Make Stress Your Friend,” which revealed the results of studies that tracked Americans who felt weighed down by stress in the previous year. Psychologists wanted to see if the way subjects thought about their stress would change the way their body reacted to it. The results showed those who think about stress as a helpful bodily reaction actually improve their bodies’ response to it.

Reading a study done at Harvard University, McGonigal stated, “What if you viewed them instead as signs that your body was energized, was preparing you to meet this challenge? Your pounding heart is preparing you for action. If you’re breathing faster ... it’s getting more oxygen to your brain.”

Students tend to allow their stress to take over their emotional state, which, in the end, takes a toll on their overall health. While preparing for and taking finals, it’s important students recognize the state their minds and bodies are in and take the steps to ensure they’re using that overwhelming feeling to motivate themselves to spend extra time in the library or stay up that extra hour to study.

McGonigal mentioned that oxytocin, a hormone commonly known for its presence in pleasure, is also a stress hormone. According to McGonigal, this hormone makes people social beings during times of stress. Oxytocin pushes people to seek support for themselves and provide support for others as a stress response. As an individual’s brain releases this hormone, it’s also signaling a need for comfort from friends and family.

McGonigal’s favorite effect on the body happens within the heart, as “oxytocin helps your heart regenerate and heal from any stress induced damage; this stress hormone strengthens your heart ... All of these physical benefits of oxytocin are enhanced by social contact and social support.”

During the last three weeks of school, students should allow themselves to delve into these social connections. They should make time to reach out to professors, attend office hours, stop by the Learning Centers in the Student Success Center for extra tutoring or even study with their friends in the library. With hard work comes hard play. So a few hours each day should be leisurely spent with friends to give the brain and heart a study break. This could be beneficial for how students perform in the library during preparation and while taking finals in the classroom.

McGonigal made it obvious that how one thinks about stress matters. All Dukes, faculty included, should be aware of the responses the body makes to stress and view them in a positive manner. This is the body’s way of helping individuals tackle their difficult experiences.

McGonigal left her audience with the quote, “When you choose to view stress in this way, you’re not just getting better at stress ... You’re saying that you can trust yourself to handle life’s challenges. And you’re remembering that you don’t have to face them alone.”

So as finals approach, students should keep in mind their bodies are biologically prepared to handle these stressful moments of cramming and have the support systems to get through them. It’s just up to them to change their attitudes and trust in themselves.

Molly is a freshman media arts and design major. Contact Molly at sykesms@dukes.jmu.edu.

JMU clarifies stance on sexual assault

BILL WYATT | university spokesperson

Last week, The Breeze published a cover story about a sexual misconduct case currently pending in the university’s student accountability process. The university isn’t able to respond to specific details of the story because federal law prohibits us from disclosing information on individual students, but we do want to ensure that students have accurate information about the processes and resources in place to deal with sexual misconduct.

First and foremost, all students are encouraged to report incidents of sexual misconduct and to make use of the many resources available. During the last four academic years at JMU, 36 sexual misconduct charges have been adjudicated by the Office of Student Accountability and Restorative Practices (OSARP). Of those, 18 charges resulted in findings of responsible, 10 were found to be not responsible and the others have either been dropped, withdrawn or are pending. As these statistics demonstrate, the administration is serious when we state that we view sexual misconduct as a public health and safety challenge to solve, not a public relations issue to obscure.

We know it takes a great deal of courage to come forward to report an incident, and even greater courage to go through the process. The university doesn’t refuse students who come forward; rather, it provides resources and counseling to students to help them understand the process and to get the support they need. The university staff who work on these issues are well trained and extraordinarily dedicated to addressing this significant societal problem. The university also has a responsibility to provide a fair and meaningful process for all parties concerned.

We are strongly focused on prevention, awareness and support across the entire university as we seek to combat sexual misconduct. Over the past decade, we’ve expanded counseling resources and created and invested in the Office of Sexual Violence and Advocacy at the University Health Center. We added the new full-time position of Title IX Coordinator. We’re partnered with students, faculty and staff to create numerous training and education initiatives, such as Haven training for students (starting before students even arrive on campus) and the new Green Dot campaign, a sexual abuse intervention program. We’ve supported the Campus Assault Response hotline, and have sponsored many other events to raise awareness about sexual misconduct.

We fully recognize that there is much more work to be done to address this serious, societal problem that’s reflected in our own community. We will continue to study and apply best practices as they evolve across the country. In order to make continuing progress, we hope that we can all work together — faculty, staff and students alike — to recognize that we all have a role to play in this ongoing effort.

Bill Wyatt is the director of communications and university spokesperson at JMU. Contact Bill at wyattb@jmu.edu.
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see GENDER ROLES, page 12

Gender roles in children generate social competence

RUSSEL BHAMRAH | contributing columnist

Recently, there’s been a profound amount of coverage on the legitimacy of gender roles. The topic has been debated more frequently due to its latest negative connotations. This is backed with the premise that gender roles are inherently hostile, and have been socially constructed to support the study of hegemonic masculinity: the legitimization of the dominant man over the submissive woman. Whether this ideology of the oppressive man is or isn’t an actual rewrite of the history of gender studies, gender roles have been justified as evidence for the lack of self-expression, individuality and social freedoms.

In many cases, gender roles are indeed the perpetrator in the elimination of a child’s expression. However, it can be argued that this initial inhibition of self-expression as well as the addition of the burden of gender-specific social norms can constitute benefits. Interestingly, the compliance of gender roles is a first step to developing such self-expression, as the roles help the development of social competence and confidence.

While that sounds far-fetched, the answer to that claim can be found in the process of social acceptance, as gender roles are a definite influencer in how children are indeed socially accepted.

Peer acceptance is a prevalent worry of many children, as their developmental years are spent learning through social interaction. Peer pressure and social norms are constant variables in a child’s desire to be accepted. They’ll encounter many social challenges, and their abilities to overcome such difficulties will result in their social competence. Such abilities include the compliance to gender norms.

In other words, gender roles should be complied with — no matter the extent to which they’re disagreed upon — if a child seeks to be better accepted by peers. Once accepted per their compliance of the societal norms, they can feel socially comfortable and courageous to express themselves. At this point, gender roles have significantly less influence.

Additionally, this idea can lead to significant social and emotional development for a child. To comprehend this matter fully, an example of youth sports can be used. Despite its decline — and the consequences thereof — youth sports are a staple example of the roles of gender in children.
A masculine boy, for example, would be lured to play a sport that matches his inherent trait of competition and aggression. An example of such a sport would be football, rugby, etc. This would differ from a feminine male, who may find a less physically aggressive sport to be ideal; he may have never idealized physical prowess as a competitive trait. But let’s assume the feminine boy was convinced to participate in a more “masculine” sport, like football. It might turn out he likes the sport, so he plays a couple of seasons on his youth league. Luckily, he ends up being an excellent player, so he plays a couple of seasons.

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Prizes will be given to the winner of each heat.
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Here comes the treble

By EMMA KORYNTA
The Breeze

A square pin with the colors of the rainbow adorned his denim jacket, which he wore almost every day. Despite the fact that he wants to be known as more than a “bedroom producer,” that’s what he has to do while producing his music in college. He mixes all his recordings, layers his tracks and tests out each second of his newest songs all from his bedroom, but his music reaches a much bigger audience.

Zach Benson, a junior communication studies major, has been playing music in bands since middle school, but is currently working on his solo career. While he’s played in alternative bands and done musical theater, he describes his sound as “pop music with a very homosexual twist,” regarding how he expresses his sexual orientation through music.

“I’m really just trying to be an international pop superstar,” Benson joked.

He has been performing for the majority of his life, but didn’t decide he wanted to pursue music professionally until recently. Benson has a minor in music, but felt it was too late in his time at JMU to change his major to follow his new career plans.

“Music has always sort of been like a hobby for me,” Benson said. “Throughout high school, I was playing in different bands and then freshman and sophomore year, I was really just experimenting with production. This year I really started to take things a lot more seriously.”

Benson, who first came out four years ago, hopes his presence in the music industry is helpful for those in the LGBTQ community. He performed in other genres prior to coming out, but felt more comfortable when switching to pop music due to more presence from openly queer individuals. He cites Troye Sivan — who came out publicly on YouTube in 2013 — as his biggest musical inspiration for his own music.

“When I first started doing music and writing my own songs, I was always hesitant to put he-him pronouns in my songs or make it apparent that the songs was about me being gay,” Benson said.

As he grew comfortable with his music and identity, he started being more open with personal experiences in his songs. Benson even has several songs on his upcoming EP that were written about his boyfriend at the time.

“I’m just trying to be as authentic as possible so that other people can feel like they can be authentic as well,” Benson said.

While Benson performs on his own, he’s shared the stage with other musicians. Ryan Cambetes, a junior computer science major known on the stage as Ryan Cam, has known Benson since they were in elementary school together. They were both in a school musical in fifth grade, reconnected at JMU, partnered for a song and performed together at a house show. Cambetes feels that Benson’s commitment to his music is clear.

“I feel like it is kind of hard for people to follow their passions and dreams nowadays and it’s really inspiring when you see someone that is,” Cambetes said. “It inspires you to as well, to try and do your thing. I actually get a lot of inspiration from him, almost as like friendly competition.”

Those in Benson’s life feel as though he’s the same person on and off the stage. His music, while it’s served as an outlet for expressing his experiences, is ingrained in his day-to-day life — he even sings to himself while he talks.

Maggie Brennan, a junior musical theater and communication studies double major, is Benson’s roommate. While she hears Benson working on his music through their shared wall, she’s a big fan of the finished product and his live performances. She describes his music as being perfect for “driving around with your friends with the top down,” and believes his career in music won’t be over after college.

“It’s so exciting to see where he is now,” Brennan said. “I can’t wait to see where he goes with all of this stuff because I can’t imagine a world where Zach Benson isn’t super successful.”

Those around Benson feel his personality and dedication to music is as authentic when you talk to him as when you see him on stage. According to Cambetes, he puts his all into his music.

“You can just tell,” Cambetes said. “You get this raw emotion and you get this raw feeling that you know he’s up there doing what he loves to do.”

CONTACT Emma Korynta at korynten@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.

New York state of mind

Scott Laudati’s poem book ‘Bone House’ captures life in the city through personal adventures

By KAILEY CHENG
The Breeze

New York City is a mishmash of different walks of life. It’s notorious for youngsters looking for new job opportunities, the homeless — who know the city better than most — tourists and even teenage rebels simply looking for a place to stay. Author and poet Scott Laudati explores every crevice of the city that never sleeps in his poem book, “Bone House.”

Laudati shares personal experiences with his readers through intricate storytelling and digs deep into the details of his adventures. The poems are written in free verse and are generally long enough to tell a story, or even give the readers a life lesson. Throughout his poetry, Laudati illustrates what life is truly like in New York City through his eyes and ponders the complications of serious relationships, failures in life and expectations of a modern American society. In “buying cocaine for ‘’’’’’, Laudati describes a budding relationship with an unnamed celebrity woman and falling back into drugs because she requests it from him, and he gives in despite trying to quit. He describes citizens’ dependence on drugs in the city and illuminates the weak and gloomy lives they live as a result of their addictions and greed.

“Coast to coast” is a prime example of a work that describes the deep feelings of American youth in response to society that surrounds them. It begins with “my real education began after college,” implying that Laudati was able to learn more from experiencing the real world than from being a student. He claims that parents and teachers follow guidelines put in place by society that are “designed to keep us fat and middle class.”

Another poem that stands out is “the basement days,” where Laudati describes the fear of missing out — a relatable subject among teens in a city where something is happening in every corner. In his writing, he discusses the worry of being left out of parties, and instead shuts himself in his friend’s basement. Laudati draws feelings of uncertainty from not going out, and asks the question, “What will we become?” Toward the end of the poem, Laudati finally escapes the basement, but ends up drinking at bars.
According to JMU’s University Program Board, the Ty Dolla $ign concert to take place Wednesday night has been canceled due to artist traveling difficulties.

UPB announced the concert March 14 and was supposed to feature R&B artist Ella Mai. The show was organized by the Center Stage committee. According to Katie Miller, UPB’s public relations director, the traveling difficulties were on part of Ty Dolla $ign, and as a result, the spring concert had to be canceled.

“This is never our ideal option, and we want to apologize to all who were excited for the show,” Miller said in an email. “The center stage committee has worked super hard on this concert, and we are all [saddened] by this.”

Those who purchased their tickets through the JMU ticket system will receive a refund. UPB said the show won’t be postponed to a later date, but Ty Dolla Sign tweeted a picture Wednesday night saying “Hurt we didn’t make it to IMU today. Getting rescheduled ASAP. Can’t wait to make it up for y’all.”

CONTACT the culture desk at thebreezemjulture@gmail.com. For more on the culture, arts and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Twitter @Breeze_Culture.
POETRY | Laudati writes free-verse poetry that relates to young adults

In "Bone House," Laudati recalls his experiences in New York City and touches on hard-hitting subjects.

Along with his city stories, Laudati also offers his readers pieces of advice from his experiences. In "the fight of the century," he tells the audience, "You've got to own all your time or someone else will." This poem is about using all remaining energy and strength before giving up. Laudati ends with, "once you step out you can't always get back into the ring."

All in all, Laudati's "Bone House" is an intensely written collection of life stories that speaks out about American societal problems and the daily struggles of the common man. He sheds light on serious issues like suicide, drug use and loneliness, and puts his own voice into each poem.

His tone is distinct and very much his own, which can be seen throughout the entire book. It was a fast read and never failed to be intriguing. Despite the dreary mood of his book, he included details of humor and sarcasm throughout, creating a balance between a light and dark frame of mind.

The thoughts, feelings and experiences Laudati writes are relatable to young adults trying to fit in with the rest of America. After living in New York City, he’s able to share his view on the harsh reality of life today. "Bone House" is the perfect selection for readers looking for brutally honest and hard-hitting poetry that speaks to the mind.

CONTACT Kailey Cheng at chengks@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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- **Thurs. April 19**
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- **Mon. April 23**
  Madison Union 256

- **Thurs. April 26**
  UREC
Houston said.
and it’s a good competition, “ head coach Mike
sessions concluding this past weekend, the
become JMU’s next quarterback, and with spring
freshman Gage Moloney. One of these men is to
offense (8,241) won’t be a walk in the park.
— and the JMU record holder for passing
Vad Lee averaged over 100 yards a game on the
of JMU’s past quarterbacks — as former starter
Ronald byrd, the Duke’s third-consecutive FCS National
Championship. While the spring game might’ve
made it seem as if this is DiNucci’s job to lose,
the coaching staff is adamant that the battle is
needing to serve more time learning from
more seasoned quarterbacks, Moloney is set to
improve other aspects of his game this offseason.
The time spent will be crucial when the day
comes for his turn under center.
“[I’m working toward] understanding
defenses and understanding blitz reads,”
Moloney said. “I think I have the offense down,
so now it’s more of just figuring out those little
details about defenses.”
With Etheridge and Moloney out of the picture
for the time being, it’s narrowed down to two.
DiNucci, a 6-foot-2-inch, 220-pound transfer
from Pittsburgh, is trying his best to settle in at
JMU after arriving in January for the start of the
spring semester.
“[It’s] only two weeks on campus were a little
rough,” DiNucci said. “Just in terms of not
knowing anybody and not necessarily being
familiar with the area. But the guys in the locker
room have been a great help to me in terms of
making me feel comfortable.”
DiNucci made a name for himself when he
came off the bench for the Panthers in 2017
and threw for 228 yards and a touchdown against
Oklahoma State. He finished the year with 1,091
passing yards, 126 yards on the ground and six
total touchdowns. Looking to play elsewhere,
DiNucci turned down scholarship offers from
other schools to walk on with the Dukes this
spring.
Growing consistently through the spring,
DiNucci has built a strong case for the starting
job at JMU. He capped off the spring season with
an electric performance in the spring game. He
completed all but three of his passes for 99 yards,
including a 14-yard touchdown to rising redshirt
junior tight end Mack Cullen. He also had several
long runs off quarterback scrambles, showcasing
his plethora of abilities. Finishing the spring
strong was vital for DiNucci, but he still has a
long way to go.
“I thought I played good,” DiNucci said.
“The biggest thing is the playbook. I’ll use the
summer to go back through that playbook and
pick up little nuances and study the defense ...
and in the fall, build on things I did well this
spring.”
While DiNucci is the newcomer to the stage,
Johnson stands as a veteran — ready to
move into the spotlight after backing up Schor
the past two seasons. Appearing in just four
games the last two years, Johnson has seen
little action on the field. His first career start
came in stunning fashion against Elon in 2016,
when he completed 12 of 13 passes for 274 yards
and two touchdowns. While Johnson does have
the benefit of being with the coaching staff for
two years, his most recent performance in the
spring game was a little shaky, leaving reason
for concern.
“I started off a little slow, I think the whole
offense did,” Johnson said. “But by the end, I
thought I was clicking pretty well … a little up
and down.”
Both quarterbacks have spent the past spring
in a healthy competition with one another,
making sure to maintain positive relationships
with a common goal in mind — appearing in
the Duke’s third-consecutive FCS National
Championship. While the spring game might’ve
made it seem as if this is DiNucci’s job to lose,
the coaching staff is adamant that the battle is
neck and neck and should continue throughout
the summer.
“I think it’s pretty even [between the two],”
Houston said. “So I think the thing we do is
we’ll take a look back at the spring as a whole,
certainly we need to evaluate today’s film on
tape, and kind of put together where we stand
coming out of the spring.”
As to when Houston will be ready to name
a starting quarterback for the 2018 team, the head
coach had fun teasing the media.
“Well I think September 1,” Houston said.
“What time is kickoff?”
By BLAKE PACE
The Breeze

Throughout the spring, Houston has begun
to eliminate quarterbacks from starting job
contention by lessening certain throwers’
playing time with the starting offense. Etheridge,
who served as the team’s primary holder on
special teams, was the first to get the axe just over
a week ago. After the conclusion of the spring
game, Houston eliminated Moloney from the
job, citing experience as the primary reason.
“Gage Moloney will be the starting quarterback
of James Madison University one day,” Houston
said. “It’s just not going to be today. He’s a very
talented player, he has incredible upside, he’s
going to be such a good player … [but] he needs
experience.”

Needling to serve more time learning from
more seasoned quarterbacks, Moloney is set to
improve other aspects of his game this offseason.
The time spent will be crucial when the day
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came in stunning fashion against Elon in 2016,
By HARRY HOLTZCLAW
The Breeze

Liz Norman struts onto JMU’s Hillside Courts, tennis bag slung over her shoulder, a purple pullover occupying her other arm and of all things, a book. The Dukes are about to play William & Mary, a powerhouse program that’s dominated the CAA for the last 30 years. But before the biggest match of Norman’s young collegiate career, she’s buried in “Astrophysics for People in a Hurry” by Neil deGrasse Tyson.

“Sadly, I had just finished ‘Alexander Hamilton,’” Norman said, recalling the 700-page read she just knocked out. “Coach thinks I’m a geek and everybody thinks I’m a nerd, but I love it.”

It’s fitting the first ever five-star recruit to sign with JMU’s women’s tennis team likes to lose herself in the galaxies. The freshman physics major is 17-1 this spring — her lone loss a three-setter against Tribe sophomore Rosie Cheng, a top-125 player in the NCAA.

Norman led 5-1 in a first-set tiebreak before Cheng rattled off six straight points to clinch it. Norman won the second set 6-3 but dropped the heartbreaking third, 7-5.

“I was very nervous,” Norman said. “I was playing a little bit tentative and got a bit tired in the third set. I think next time I play her, I can definitely win. I was right there.”

Next time could come as soon as this weekend. The teams are seeded No. 1 and 2 for the CAA Women’s Tennis Tournament in Elon, North Carolina, and are favored to meet in Sunday’s championship. JMU hasn’t beaten William & Mary in 34 years, but with Norman, the stars may align for the Dukes.

Norman was inundated with offers from Big Ten and ACC programs, Purdue and Virginia Tech among them, but Harrisonburg immediately felt comfortable.

“The way the town is built reminds me of my hometown, Terre Haute, Indiana,” Norman, who would later move to Marietta, Georgia, said. “I wanted to be myself. I knew with the team and the coach, I could grow as a person.”

And, of course, “the physics program is really good.”

see NORMAN, page 20
Norman admits her obsession with physics swayed her decision. As a toddler, she adored space and reinforced that love when her dad, David Norman, took her to NASA’s primary rocket launch center in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

“I love space because there’s no ending and it’s always continuing,” Norman said. “It’s infinite.”

She dreams of getting her Ph.D., going into the astrophysics field and specifically working at an observatory. For now, being in the astronomy club that hosts meetings in JMU’s John C. Wells Planetarium in Miller Hall will suffice.

“On my unofficial visit, Coach took me to the planetarium on campus,” Norman said. “That was amazing and not a lot of schools have that. It definitely played a role in my decision.”

It was the first time head coach Jese Bryce took a recruit to Miller Hall. He’s used to showing off the view from Festival, the stunning Quad and the Plecker Athletic Performance Center.

“She already knew where Miller Hall was on campus and knew we had a multi-million dollar telescope,” Bryce said. “She knew what she was getting into right away.”

And Bryce knew what JMU was getting into when Norman agreed to come. He was recruiting in his hometown of Birmingham, England, with spotty Wi-Fi when he saw these words in a text from Norman: “I want to commit to JMU.”

“I was definitely fist-pumping for sure,” Bryce said. “We were happy we landed her.”

Norman led Walton High School to back-to-back Georgia state championships and was undefeated in her senior season. A two-time Atlanta Journal-Constitution High School Player of the Year, she was ranked 75th nationally among the 2017 signing class. She wins behind a crushing first serve and a wicked forehand that can be placed anywhere on the court with enough pace to keep her opponents off-balance. Her two-handed ripper of a backhand is so pure that she prefers ad side in doubles.

“She’s ultra-aggressive and likes to poach a lot,” junior Abby Amos said about her doubles partner. “She’s got a really big serve. Her forehand and her backhand are really strong; she’s often able to set me up.”

On the court, you can’t miss her, whether it’s her flawless strokes or self-directed verbal frustration after a stray forehand.

“We’ve referred to her as ‘Naughty Norman’ because sometimes she doesn’t have a censor,” Amos added.

Norman’s off-court quirks don’t stop at reading physics books before play begins, she’s also a proud gamer. She adores Dragon Age: Inquisition, NBA 2k17 and Star Wars Battlefront 2 on Xbox. She can’t get enough of spicy foods and constantly begs friends to join her at Moe’s Southwest Grill. Her on-campus go-to is Mongolian Grill because she knows she can dump cayenne pepper on her order.

“I have it like twice a day every week,” Norman said. “I’m actually going there after this interview.”

And don’t forget the 10 to 12 books she’s read this year alone. Norman is nearly finished with “Astrophysics for People in a Hurry” and it’ll only be a matter of time before she cracks open a new one. Meanwhile, Chapter 1 of her collegiate tennis career is a pretty good read in itself.

CONTACT

Harry Holtzclaw at holtzchw@dukes.jmu.edu. For more tennis coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter at @TheBreezeSports.
JMU baseball’s extra effort off the field translates to success on the diamond

By JAMES FARIS
The Breeze

A black 2007 GMC Yukon pulls into the parking lot at Memorial Hall on a quiet, chilly Saturday morning in Harrisonburg. JMU baseball’s senior outfielder Adam Sisk steps out of his car five hours before first pitch and, much to his surprise, he’s not alone. Teammates DaYvon Griffin, Harry Brown and Matt Dipasupil have beaten him to batting practice consistently, something he’s still getting used to.

“I’m happy coming to the field every day and seeing guys getting here before me,” Sisk said. “It used to be me here first, a lot, and now guys are beating me to the field.”

Sisk and his teammates arrived hours early to JMU baseball’s facility at Veterans Memorial Park ahead of the second game in a February weekend series against Albany. Following a tough 8-5 loss in extra innings the night before, the Dukes were eager to get to the field and get the sour taste of defeat out of their mouths.

“At the end of the meeting, [head coach
Marlin] Ikenberry said, ‘Look at your watches. What time is it?’” Sisk said. “It was like 10:45 or 11 o’clock. He said, ‘You guys know we play at 4 [p.m.] today, right?’”

Later that day, JMU would come from behind to defeat Albany 4-3 in the second game of the series and would win the series on Sunday, improving to 5-2 on the season. The score would be seen and remembered, but the work and preparation that went into the game would go unnoticed.

“It’s a tenacious group that works really hard every day,” Ikenberry said. “There’s still some evolving parts, especially with the injuries we’ve had. (We’ve had) guys playing different positions, guys stepping up that need to step up at the right time.”

JMU has won five out of their last six games, but still sits close to the bottom of the conference standings with a 5-7 record in CAA play. While the team’s extra efforts haven’t quite translated to success in the standings, the best days for this team are ahead.

“Everyone comes to practice every day working hard as hell,” Sisk said. “These guys work really hard and no one gets to see the behind the scenes. What people don’t get to see, I see every day.”

The Dukes are 20-17 and are on pace to finish the season with a winning record for the first time since 2011. A road series this weekend against Delaware, who has a 5-4 record in conference play, will be critical if JMU plans on keeping pace with its CAA foes.

“What I’m most proud of is me and the other seniors are instilling this work ethic on these young guys,” Sisk said. “I love getting beat to the park every day … it brings a big smile to my face.”

While the older players are setting the tone for the underclassmen, no one on the roster has experienced a season of winning baseball at JMU. Last season was the closest the team’s been, as the Dukes were 24-22 with five games to play but lost all five to finish under .500 again for the sixth straight year.

“The overall competitiveness of each player [has improved],” Ikenberry said. “We have more depth in the pitching staff. Last year, we didn’t have a lot of depth and that’s why we struggled down the stretch.”

Several freshmen and sophomores have become key contributors in the starting lineup, but one consequence of having a young team is the inherent inexperience that accompanies youth. After several close losses, the team is prepared to put past shortcomings behind it.

“We’re a young team,” sophomore pitcher Kevin Kelly said. “It’s not an excuse, but we’ve got a lot of young guys and I think that plays into it a little.”

The Dukes are grinding toward turning the tide and changing perceptions of the program. While the public doesn’t see it, the work put in behind the scenes and before the game is crucial to the team’s success, and it’s finally starting to show.

“If we just get 1 percent better every day and keep doing the little things in practice, they’re going to translate over to the game,” Sisk said.

CONTACT James Faris at farisja@dukes.jmu.edu. For more baseball coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.

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Hospitality

We are registering individuals experienced in Hospitality. Work in various locations around Harrisonburg as banquet servers for multiple events, some are located on campus! Hours vary by event, you can pick and choose which ones you are able to work. Average $12.00 an hour. Please call 540.615.1818 or email vwillingham@goodwinwilliam.com

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HRECC is seeking applications for full-time and part-time Basic Communicators. To apply online, visit: https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/harrisonburg/jobs/2029952/basic-communicator. EOE.

Female Caregiver for Elderly Woman with Room & Board
Female caregiver(s) for elderly woman. Overnight/weekend. Live-in position. Basic duties. Large BR, full use of home & utilities/internet. Possible to share responsibilities w/ female friend. Resume/references to gaylegregorybsw@gmail.com

Baby Sitter Needed 2018-2019 School Year
Needed: A baby sitter for the 2018-2019 school year to watch two-year-old twins, a boy and girl, M-F, 10:30am-2:30 pm, 25 mins north of Harrisonburg. Please contact Noelle at 540-476-1433.

PT Assistant/Sitter/Friend for My Elderly Mom
Seeking outgoing, fun person to assist my elderly mother with her Speech Therapy “homework.” She suffered a stroke which mainly affected her speech. I could train you. Examples include: reciting with her the alphabet and days of the week, family members names, and counting. For more details: mblehnert@yahoo.com

Hospitality
We are registering individuals experienced in Hospitality. Work in various locations around Harrisonburg as banquet servers for multiple events, some are located on campus! Hours vary by event, you can pick and choose which ones you are able to work. Average $12.00 an hour. Please call 540.615.1818 or email vwillingham@goodwinwilliam.com

Basic Communicators
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3x3 square contain all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★★★

Moderate ★☆☆☆☆
Challenging ★★★★☆
HOO BOY!

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SUBMIT YOUR DARTS & PATS

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Upcoming Events

Friday
• Spring Dance Concert, Earlynn J. Miller Dance Theatre, 8 p.m.

Saturday
• Rocktown Beer & Music Festival 2018 at Turner Pavilion, 3 - 8 p.m.

Sunday
• WASTED! The Story of Food Waste at Court Square Theater, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
OFF-CAMPUS Freedom

HEALTHIER LIVING
COOK, CLEAN & WORKOUT ON YOUR OWN TIME

FREEDOM & PRIVACY
NEIGHBORHOOD FEEL WITH THE PRIVACY YOU NEED

MORE (QUIET) SPACE
STUDY IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME

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