People First, Clothes Second

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College of Education provides students with opportunity to have classroom experience on campus

BY KATELYN WALTEMYER
The Breeze

In 1958, Mildred Dickerson, former coordinator of the Early Childhood Education Program, began teaching at Madison College. She taught students who desired to work with preschool children in the new nursery school in Anthony-Seegeer Campus School. As a result of the campus schools closing in 1983, the nursery was named the Young Children’s Program, and is part of the College of Education today.

The YCP is an on-campus lab facility for students studying early childhood education and those in the early childhood education major of arts in teaching. As part of the program, the students are required to do a case study on a child.

“They select a child from their classroom and they’re doing a really in-depth study to learn about that one child,” Pat Kennedy, YCP director and professor in the College of Education, said. “But in the process of learning what makes this child not only with that child, but [with] other children as well.”

While there have been many changes to the YCP throughout its history, one aspect that remains consistent is the level of involvement undergraduate and graduate students have when it comes to the day care. Since the YCP is a practicum site for students to conduct research, they typically find themselves among the interactive atmosphere that takes place in the classroom.

“They’re just throwing me into the deep end,” Ashley Spencer, a post baccalaureate graduate student, said. “I’ve loved getting the hands-on experience that I need.”

For approximately 30 years, the YCP has been accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This is the highest form of accreditation for day cares and preschool facilities.

The YCP was recently re-accredited in December 2017. Nationally, less than 10 percent of child day care centers achieve this accreditation.

Not only did we meet the standards, but we met the emerging standards,” Kennedy said. “We are in the top 25 percent of all of the portfolios submitted. It really shows the high quality of the Young Children’s Program because the NAEYC accreditation attests to the all-around quality of YCP. It’s not just about the furniture or the building or the playground. It incorporates anything you could think of that needs to be high quality in an early child care setting.”

The YCP has maintained a high standard of operation throughout its years. The program has been accredited since the NAEYC’s accreditation process began.

“As soon as NAEVC developed their standards for recognizing excellent quality in programs, we were right there participating and being ranked and rated,” Teresa Harris, professor and department head of early, elementary and reading education, said.

For every day care facility, a license must be obtained for practice. This license shows the bare minimum required, whereas the NAEYC displays the highest standards for day cares and rewards those who demonstrate best practice.

The process for NAEYC accreditation is completely optional. The NAEYC rates 10 aspects of day care facilities from the curriculum, teaching, health and teachers to the physical environment of the classrooms.

“It is a rigorous process to become accredited and provide the documentation that’s used to make the determination that you do use those standards,” Martha Ross, a former YCP coordinator, said. “By providing this program that models best practice and resources, the students can see what it looks like in action and actually participate in it and get involved in the planning for it and thinking about interacting with children and all of those things you need to know.”

A common misconception about day cares is that all the children do is play, but Ross argues otherwise. She believes children learn differently than adults.

“You have to watch that learning in a very purposeful way,” Ross said. “So part of what that experience also does is teach our students how to observe children and look for landmarks that show their learning, growth and development. That was the big impact it had on the JMU students.”

Over the years, the YCP has adapted to the needs of Harrisonburg families. The most recent changes happened in 2016. The YCP has recently partnered with Harrisonburg City Public Schools so that children on their day care waitlists receive the preschool atmosphere they need.

“Historically, it has been this morning and afternoon programming and the morning teacher with her 3-year-olds would rotate and teach their 4-year-olds the next year in the afternoon,” Harris said. “Now we have two full-day classrooms and we have the one mixed-age, half-day classroom.”

Another key component that’s always been a priority to the YCP is the learner-driven atmosphere. Instead of the teachers mapping out the curriculum, they take the time to see what the children are interested in and apply that to their lessons.

“I never got to experience that when I was in school,” Spencer said. “You can read about it all you want in your textbook, but until you get actual experience with it — it’s totally different.”

CONTACT Katelyn Waltemyer at breezenews@gmail.com. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.
JMU's division of the Virginia Biotechnology Association, VaBio, has been an organization for students interested in the bioscience and technology fields for the past 10 years. VaBio is part of an association located in Richmond made up of over 200 Virginia-based biotechnology-affiliated companies.

VaBio at JMU gives students confidence for their future career opportunities through networking, lab visits and guest speakers. Ultimately, VaBio at JMU wants students to take these experiences and inspire them to pursue an interest in the biotechnology field.

The club travels to networking events in Virginia, schedules biotech lab tours with mini demonstrations and brings in guest speakers for seminars. Its community provides connections with employees from Virginia-based biotech companies and shows students potential employment options. Eric South, a senior biotechnology major and president of VaBio at JMU, has been involved with the organization for the past 10 years. VaBio at JMU’s division of the Virginia Biotechnology Association provides members with opportunities to prepare for careers after school. Students involved in the program participate in lab visits across the state and hear guest speakers.

By ANDREA BRUSIG

The Breeze

Virginia Biotechnology Association at JMU provides members with opportunities to prepare for careers after school. Students involved in the program participate in lab visits across the state and hear guest speakers.

Virginia Biotechnology Association at JMU gives students tools to succeed in STEM fields

By ANDREA BRUSIG
The Breeze

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“We're giving undergraduates who are interested in this professional path an idea of what they're getting themselves into,” South said. “And kind of with the culture of science, once you graduate and leave the JMU bubble, just having the experience is nice.”

The organization's main goal is to give students an environment to explore career options in biotechnology and other STEM-related fields. They meet once a week to work on networking skills and learn more about biotech careers through event opportunities and speakers.

“It gives us an opportunity to understand more about industries and about our options after we graduate,” Casey Noll, a senior biotechnology major, said. “It helps us make that initial connection, and there’s at least one place we’ve visited that I’m going to apply to, so it’s nice that I actually met the people there and understood what it would be like to work there.”

VaBio at JMU also brings in a variety of guest speakers to talk to students about both the business and science sides of biotechnology careers. Students can experience different jobs in the industry firsthand by visiting biotech labs and companies throughout Virginia.

“These connections are a great way to market our skills to potential employers in the biotechnology industry,” said Kyle Sperber, a junior biotechnology and political science double major and vice president of VaBio at JMU.

Through the connections students build, they are able to find career direction and get a chance to showcase what they learned at each event.

“I know it’s kind of scary not knowing what you’re going to do after graduating, but having already seen the companies and met people who are successful in biotech careers has given me a lot more confidence about the future,” Noll said. “When I first joined sophomore year, I absolutely had no idea what I wanted to do.”

Sperber entered the club as a freshman and ended up shifting his career plans because of it. He was encouraged to run for vice president the same year, and is now serving his third year in the role. His involvement helped him make the switch from one aspect of STEM to another.

“I actually joined as a biology major, and enjoyed the field of biotechnology enough to change my major my sophomore year,” Sperber said.

VaBio gives students the opportunity to network and provides various avenues for life after graduation. Giving students exposure to build their confidence to pursue biotech careers is the organization’s most important mission. Each year, VaBio holds different networking events in Richmond and Charlottesville, where students from campuses across Virginia can learn from experienced leaders in the biotechnology field.

“I sort of felt like a fish in a big ocean,” South said. “I was just an undergraduate hearing people who had 20-plus years of experience talking, but I just walked up and asked to learn what they were talking about. They were so welcoming, and I got to talk to so many unexpected people and just listened to them talk about their lives.”

As one of many events that VaBio puts on, Biotech and Beer allows students to network and discuss biotechnology issues in a casual environment. Students mingle with people who work in the biotech industry, eat food and drink beer while doing so. It’s designed to be an outlet for students to ask questions about future careers.

One of the highlights of South’s time in VaBio came from a trip to HemoShear Therapeutics last year. South says the trip inspired him to become more involved with the organization.

“Having that direct contact with other people who have been in your shoes and are a couple years ahead, you realize that you’re just like these guys,” South said. “You come from the same place they came from, have the same interests and it gives you cool connections. It’s kind of given me confidence and shown me that you can pursue what you want to do if you just get close to it.”

CONTACT Andrea Brusig at brusigap@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.
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Build Our Park unveils new design concepts

news desk

Build Our Park, an organization with the goal of building a new park in downtown Harrisonburg, presented design plans at Tuesday night’s City Council meeting, according to WHSV. The park could be ready as soon as 2020, organizers say. BOP has raised $400,000 for the construction of a new park, $11,000 of which came from the recent Great Community Give. The park would be located behind City Hall.

City Council and city staff members, including the Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance Design Committee, have been involved with the design of the park. BOP has proposed that the park be built on 1.2 acres of city-owned property. Proposals for the park include splash fountains, a playground, an additional pavilion, tables and seating. BOP has started phase one of the process of building the new park, which includes getting grant money to break ground this year.

“The conceptual designs represent an inviting transformation of available space where our community can come together,” BOP’s website says. “With areas for relaxing and playing, flexible facilities for performances and events, as well as an expansion for the farmer’s market, the park design is thoughtful and creative.”

CONTACT the news desk at breezenews@gmail.com. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.

Build Our Park has raised $400,000 for the construction of a new park behind Harrisonburg City Hall.
**WORLD:**
**French president speaks to Congress**

On Tuesday, French President Emmanuel Macron spoke to a joint session of Congress in Washington, D.C. After highlighting the “unbreakable bonds” of the U.S. and France, Macron rebuked nationalism and isolationism as threats to global prosperity. He expressed hope that the U.S. will remain involved in world affairs as it had with previous administrations. Macron expressed his desire for the U.S. to rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement and continue supporting the Iran nuclear deal. The French president also stressed the importance of environmentalism and stated that “there is no planet B.” These statements were a sharp contrast to President Donald Trump’s America First agenda, which has taken isolationist approaches to foreign policy.

**NATIONAL:**
**Alleged murderer arrested in California**

The FBI arrested Joseph DeAngelo as part of the decades-old Golden State Killer case near Sacramento, California. According to the Sacramento Bee, DeAngelo had been living near the city and was identified after new investigation efforts. Late author Michelle McNamara and co-author Billy Jensen recently investigated the case for a book they co-wrote called “I’ll Be Gone in the Dark,” which was published last February. The Golden State Killer is suspected of committing 12 murders, 45 rapes and 120 burglaries between 1976-86. Also known as the East Area Rapist and Original Night Stalker, his victims were females aged between 12-41.

**LOCAL:**
**Candidates spar over convention rules**

On Tuesday, GOP candidates for Virginia’s sixth congressional district argued over proper nominating convention rules. The campaigns of Ben Cline, Chaz Haywood, Ed Justo, Kathryn Lewis and Douglas Wright stated their desire for a nominee to be chosen through a majority vote by convention delegates. Additionally, they called for an election of an independent convention chairperson on May 19. The candidates accuse the current chairman, Scott Sayre, of creating convention rules that unfairly favor certain candidates. Sayre responded to the allegations by accusing Cline of using “political half-truths.” The candidates are looking to replace House of Representatives member Bob Goodlatte, who is not running for reelection.
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To JUUL or not to JUUL?

**MOLLY SYKES**
contributing columnist

A college-wide epidemic has recently hit the inside of frat parties, dorms and even lecture halls. It looks much like a flash drive, is rechargeable and requires small inserts called “pods,” which are sold separately. It’s called a JUUL, and it’s a bandwagon college students aren’t hesitant to jump on.

JUULing has caused much debate between users and nonusers. Many claim JUULing is a safe habit with no harmful effects on users’ health, while others claim JUULing can cause many respiratory complications later in life. I have plenty of friends who JUUL and can’t go anywhere without their alternative smoking device in hand. The majority of these friends also demolished their JUULs in creative ways after hearing the rumors that they can cause cancers. The ingredients in JUUL pods have side effects, and anytime we introduce new chemicals into our systems, we’re guaranteed to experience consequences.

According to the JUUL Labs website, JUULs are electronic cigarettes designed to help those who already use tobacco products stop their habit. The intention of the JUUL creators wasn’t to encourage a new generation of smokers, but prevent the next generation from being inclined to smoke harsher tobacco products. JUUL pods, costing $15.99 for a pack of four, come in eight appealing flavors, ranging from tobacco to mint to the most popular on campus: mango. If the intention is to talk about these small vape pens being as bad as smoking a cigarette must be false.

With any form of smoking, there are both short- and long-term effects that’ll happen within the body. A few short-term effects include dizziness, dry mouth, a cough, dry eyes and sometimes nose bleeds. Along with these, smokers may experience a head high while using a JUUL. These head highs are caused by high levels of nicotine in the pods.

While these alternatives prevent exposure to the harsher chemicals within cigarettes and other tobacco products, they still contain nicotine, a highly addictive substance. One JUUL pod contains 0.7mL of liquid, which is 5 percent nicotine. Smoking one JUUL pod is the equivalent of smoking one pack of cigarettes.

Most smokers don’t notice the immediate effects nicotine has on the body. When nicotine enters a user’s system, it first comes in contact with the brain’s reward system, thus forming an addiction. In the long run, nicotine also affects the lungs. According to research done by Chris Sherwood, the National Cancer Institute says, “when nicotine enters the bloodstream through the lungs, blood pressure is temporarily increased, and the arteries throughout the body become more narrow. This restricts the amount of oxygen that can be circulated throughout the body … Restriction of blood also restricts the amount of oxygen the lungs can circulate in the blood to keep the body healthy.”

So, as students ask if they can hit a JUUL at parties or contemplate buying their own smoking device, they should keep in mind that although JUULs may be tiny, they’re fierce in their effects on the body. Students should follow in the light of those at the JUUL Labs and create a generation made of nonsmokers, not begin a new generation of JUULers.

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

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A missile meet and greet

North Korea displayed a submarine-launched ballistic missile during a parade in central Pyongyang on April 15, 2017. However, Kim Jong Un has suspended the country’s long-range missile launches and nuclear sites.

**ELI GALIANO**
contributing columnist

News broke Saturday that North Korea, under leader Kim Jong Un, closed its nuclear test site and suspended its long-range missile launches. This came after the publicly disclosed secret meeting over Easter weekend between Kim and Mike Pompeo, the CIA director and Secretary of State nominee.

Albert Einstein can shed some light on the magnitude of this issue: “I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.” In other words, rational thought eludes to the fact that World War III will be the end of humanity. America should be optimistic Kim has taken a step toward denuclearization and away from the possibility of another World War. While it seems Kim has relinquished some nuclear power and given up on World War III, it wouldn’t be far-fetched to think he’s secretly increasing North Korea’s stockpile of sticks and stones in his preparation of wanting to win World War IV.

While Kim has stopped short of completely giving up his nuclear arsenal, this is a clear sign of progress in the ongoing North Korea-U.S. relations ahead of the planned Trump-Kim summit. The United States can’t let this opportunity pass to find a way to end the possibility of another World War. While it seems Kim has relinquished some nuclear power and given up on World War III, it wouldn’t be far-fetched to think he’s secretly increasing North Korea’s stockpile of sticks and stones in his preparation of wanting to win World War IV.

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The anticipated summit between Trump and Kim resembles the famed meeting between Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. They met during familiarly tense relations between the U.S. and the Soviet Union back in 1985. While nothing groundbreaking immediately came from the meeting, it set the foundation for an ensuing cordial and personal relationship between the two leaders. This led to the eventual stabilization of the U.S.-Soviet Union nuclear arms race.

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

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

As finals week closes in, there will be desperate efforts for students to study and cram as much knowledge into their heads as possible in time for exams. There are many different ways to study, from private tutors and flash cards to cramming the night before, each student has his or her own study methods. But at the end of the day, no one wants to spend a lot of time studying.

Another popular method of studying is skimming, the act of briefly looking over any study text in hopes of retaining the required material. Now, for something as important as an exam, that might seem like a bad idea. After all, it’s important to properly study the text when it comes to something as essential as a final exam. However, skimming can be a useful and convenient way to study, save time and accumulate information.

When students are assigned an article or chapter to read, they’re expected to have it read. Even if it was done with little-to-no attention, rereading it could spark memories and make it easier to take in all the knowledge. Of course, having already read it at the assigned date, it would be fine to skim over it, as that would be enough to remember what was once read. I’ve tried this tactic before, and have been able to remember and memorize knowledge that was originally suppressed. Most importantly, according to Butte College, it’ll save time.

For many classes, there are a few dozen readings posted on Canvas, many of which go on for a dozen pages or more. Rereading each of them over and over until the content is memorized would take a long time, far too long for someone who only has a few days left until exam time. Compromises will need to be made, therefore, skimming could yield better results.

There are certain parts of a reading that can be useful for skimming, as some sections contain more information than others. Students should focus on the abstracts posted at the beginning, as they often sum up the essay in one solid paragraph. Conclusions also have a tendency to summarize the gist of any article or scholarly paper. This may not work with chapters or books, but if anyone’s desperate, they can simply look up the summary, or consult websites like SparkNotes for evaluating chapters and general themes.

Another noted benefit of bare-minimum reading is it can help relieve stress. Spending hours on a single reading can be a chore, as it leaves me feeling like I’ve made little progress. However, if I’ve skimmed through several smaller articles and picked up something from each, I’ll feel I made a good deal of progress, and will feel less stressed because of it.

Skimming doesn’t deserve the bad reputation it has, and while it may not be the most surefire way to ace a test, it can provide a noticeable change toward a person’s grade. Whenever pressed for time, don’t be afraid to skim the notes. It can be surprising what someone might pick up from a quick view.

Sam Jefferson is a senior writing, rhetoric and technical communication major. Contact Sam at jefferss@dukes.jmu.edu.
A similar positive outcome in the simmering of North Korea’s unhinged nuclear activities is the hope for Trump and Kim’s summit. The face-to-face meeting is the necessary first step in the goal of peaceful relations between the two men and countries.

For a country that’s tested nukes since 2006, hacked Sony over the release of a movie that poked fun at its leader and put a captured college student in a deathly coma, North Korea’s unpredictability makes it a unique threat. This planned summit, in turn, can provide some light to the dark horse North Korea has been with its unpredictable nuclear threats to the United States. Now, there’s time to acknowledge a minor victory and a positive step in the North Korean mission and credit must go to both leaders for the recent string of productive developments.

I have to applaud Trump and his team for their approach on this issue so far — though the job is far from finished. Despite possible reservations one might have in the rhetorical choice or approach the president has used, he’s shown unabashed strength against North Korea. Trump may be among the more successful ones in this endeavour if the negotiations go well. Amid the “fire and fury” relationship between “little rocket man” and Trump, saner heads seem to be prevailing based on their newfound agreement to meet and facilitate negotiations.

However, the U.S. can’t rest on its progress of taming the wild animal that Kim can be. Showing strength to North Korea must be the continued policy of the White House. The policy is working and the beauty of a negotiation is that both leaders get to go home and say they won something for their country. A negotiation is a win, but perpetual nuclear stalemate isn’t. So, it’s in the best interest of both leaders, countries and the world to follow through with positive and productive negotiations. Lastly, with news breaking this week of North Korea announcing a termination of its nuke testing and missile launching, the U.S. needs to follow a timeless principle that’s guided numerous successful foreign policy strategies: trust but verify.

Eli Galiano is a sophomore political science major. Contact Eli at galianes@dukes.jmu.edu.
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JMU student to pursue film career in Los Angeles post-graduation

By ABBY CHURCH
The Breeze

After five hours of flying, the first thing Eric Ransom did upon his arrival in Los Angeles was rush to his Airbnb to prepare for a last-minute Oscars after-party. He showed up an hour later, rid of his sweats from flying and dressed dapperly, but not too formal, in a button-down shirt — only to find the cluster of filmmakers, actors and directors clad in T-shirts and shorts. As the smell of burgers whirled through the air, they looked him up and down.

“We don’t dress for s***, kid,” they joked.

 Turns out, it was casual. Everyone there, according to Ransom, wasn’t into the star-studded glamour the Oscars had to offer, and he loved it.

The relaxed lifestyle, carelessness and abundant opportunities is what draws Ransom to LA. On May 10, he’ll drive across the country to begin a new life on the West Coast in hopes of being a cinematographer.

Ransom, a senior media arts and design major, grew up in Northern Virginia in a military family. With most of his family in the Navy, he’s the first person to pursue anything but a military life. Ransom first got into film during his sophomore year, he created a clothing line called Sandy Cove in which he made all the designs. He recently done work on “Stranger Things.”

“I would not have heard back from half the people that I’ve heard back from or gotten the gate that I’ve gotten if it wasn’t for the kindness of others and taking an interest in me … You really [have to] pay that forward,” Ransom said.

While he was told not to expect anything spectacular out of his day, Ransom says he felt like a kid in a candy store the entire time he was there. He met Julia Roberts and even worked with the cinematographer who’d recently done work on “Stranger Things.”

“They were saying, ‘Kid, this is just another regular day, this is nothing glamorous,’ Ransom said. “And I’m like, ‘I know, but it’s still so cool!’

The unique thing about Ransom is his love for the entire industry and not just parts of it. While he says some just pick and choose what they like to do, he’s intrigued by every aspect of what it takes to create a film.

“My main goal … career-wise is like, years down the road, but it’s to open up my own studio so I can write, produce, film and edit and distribute all of my own content, so that way I can have influence and control over the entire process because I love really everything about filmmaking,” Ransom said. “There’s not a single part of it that bores me.”

Imelda O’Reilly, an assistant professor in the SMAD department, met Ransom when he took her screenwriting class a year ago. He’s taken several classes with her since and is currently in her production and directing class.

“I think Eric has a very good sense about his strategy within the industry and that’s what’s placed him in the opportunities that he has coming up right now, and I think he will continue to do that and carve out his own path for himself to build into a successful career,” O’Reilly said.

While he balances 19 credits, two productions and a part-time job in Washington, D.C., Ransom says his “secret sauce” is coffee. The biggest things he’s learned throughout his career are to not sweat the little things, and above all, to be kind.

“I would not have heard back from half the people that I’ve heard back from or gotten the gate that I’ve gotten if it wasn’t for the kindness of others and taking an interest in me … You really [have to] pay that forward,” Ransom said.

CONTACT Abby Church at thebreezeculture@gmail.com. For more on the culture, arts and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Twitter @Breeze_Culture.
By MEGHAN AHERN
The Breeze

Sweatshirts, long-sleeved shirts and short-sleeved shirts with the logo “human” or “HUMAN INTL” etched in various designs on the front can be seen on students across JMU, Virginia Tech, U. Va. and VCU’s campuses, supporting the message that all people should be seen as human. This past summer, four JMU students decided to launch a clothing brand combining both entrepreneurial and nonprofit aspects into one.

Gihad Salih, a junior international business major and co-founder of the brand, grew up in Northern Virginia with the three other founders of the organization. He described the area as affluent and is grateful to have grown up in a family that’s well-off. Whenever Salih and his friends visited lower income areas in Washington, D.C., they reflected on how fortunate their lives have been.

“A lot of times, we’d go to Georgetown or Dupont and we’d see a lot of homeless people,” Salih said. “We would feel bad … seeing people pass homeless people and just ignore them as if they’re not there when they’re calling out for help, and it’s kind of become a normalized thing in our society.”

On a trip to Washington, D.C., Salih and Isaiah Hurt, a junior integrated science and technology major and co-founder of HUMAN INTL, decided to stop and speak to a homeless man after they heard him calling out for help. Salih said he was middle-aged, though he looked to be much older. He was wearing donated shoes and had been homeless for 10-15 years. The man spoke about his life, particularly how resources like soup kitchens weren’t maintained well in the district.

“They would go to soup kitchens and they would just give them a bunch of their leftover food mashed up together and just throw it in something and just give it to them as if they were animals,” Salih said.

After this visit, Salih and Hurt reflected on the homeless man’s words. Salih said it’s not just the poorly maintained facilities that resonated with them — it’s the words he said about how other people viewed him.

“People see him as less than a human being,” Salih said. “Automatically when they see him or automatically when they hear him, they don’t think he’s at the same stature as other people in society.”

From this experience, HUMAN INTL took form. The brand hopes to be more than a clothing line, promoting a social movement by serving to bring awareness to different issues beyond just homelessness and poverty. They want to tie in disease awareness, youth leadership and urban sanitation as well. It also aims to inspire people to make their own changes or start their own businesses.

The brand hopes that by putting on the shirt, a person is labeled as a human being regardless of race, financial status, looks or upbringing. Roderick Jones, a sophomore sports and recreation management major and co-founder of HUMAN INTL, echoed Salih’s statement.

“I feel like especially now, moving forward, everyone is really going to get to see, like, what we are as a brand in terms of the clothes we are dropping as well, not only the community outreach we are doing,” Jones said.

Along with the growing clothing brand, the group is collaborating with different charities and organizations. It’s trying to work with Campus Kitchen, a JMU organization that takes leftover food from dining halls to send to soup kitchens in the area, helping it find places to distribute the food.

Apart from this, it plans on donating 10 percent of their profits to charity. All the other money made goes back into making the products. It hasn’t chosen which charity it plans to donate to, but it’s hoping with its new launch in May it can eventually begin to donate to various organizations. After the first launch of its collection, NewBorn, the leftover extra-small shirts were donated to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

“We aren’t looking to profit off of HUMAN INTL as much as we are looking to make a change,” Salih said.

De’Jah Williams and Warren Brown, both senior health sciences majors, have been involved with HUMAN INTL since its first launch in September. They both help advertise and market the brand on campus, by working pop-up shops around campus, Harrisonburg and Northern Virginia.

“It’s much bigger than just us … I just want everybody to know the reason behind it,” Williams said. “It’s cool to have a clothing line, true enough, but like, putting some reason and some meaning behind like the actual brand itself is what makes it worth wearing.”

This past winter, HUMAN INTL collected clothing to donate while shooting for its second collection, PURE HEART, in Washington, D.C. Additionally, it’s beginning to launch a campaign that involves posting pictures online of clients or anyone willing to reach out with a caption underneath that tells a short story about hardships or injustices they’ve faced.

“I want people to look at us not only as a clothing brand but like as people who are really trying to make a difference in this world, really trying to empower change because that’s our main mission,” Jones said. “The clothes [come] second.”

CONTACT Meghan Ahern at breezecopy@gmail.com. For more on the culture, arts and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Twitter @Breeze_Culture.
Southern Isles in the ‘Burg

Family-run shop in Agora Downtown Market promotes sustainable body care products

By BRITTANY BELL
The Breeze

The aroma of candles fills the air in the front right corner of Agora Downtown Market in Harrisonburg. If it’s not the shelves of various soy candles that pique interest, then the body lotions, wax melts, bath salts and unique home decor will be sure to turn heads. This corner of the Agora market is The Isle Co., a bath and body store that specializes in candles.

Owners Bob and Kathy Miller are Harrisonburg locals, but they started the company in South Carolina after moving there with the intention to retire. In South Carolina, they were introduced to soy candles and decided to make them on their own. After a couple of years, they opened a retail store and built a factory for the products in South Carolina, eventually deciding to come back to Virginia to open another shop.

“We love this area, this is home to us,” Becca Slye, part-owner and daughter of Bob and Kathy, said. “Our roots are here and we really love the community aspect of the Shenandoah Valley.”

The Isle Co. is a close-knit, family-run business. Although Bob and Kathy are the founders and owners, Slye has recently become involved with the business as well and plans to continue running it with her family. Many of their other employees are close to the family as well due to their friendly nature and how the company is run.

“It seemed like such a good fit,” Paula Puckett, employee of The Isle Co. and family friend, said about working for the company. “It feels like family, they’re really special to me.”

When the Agora market opened over a year ago, The Isle Co. was one of the first businesses to sign the lease to bring the business downtown. Now, it’s their goal to make Virginia their base of operations and set up manufacturing to start making products locally.

“We’re so excited to have a retail location and our manufacturing expanding here in Harrisonburg,” Kathy said. “We will always keep a retail store in both locations because we have very loyal customers.”

Customers can bring empty The Isle Co. candle jars to recycled to receive a discounted price off candles.
AGORA | Bath and body shop The Isle Co. works to create pure products

Beyond the retail stores in Virginia and South Carolina, the company sells its products online through its website and wholesale. For wholesale, their main buyers are other retail stores, boutiques and spas. Along with the shop's expansion to Virginia, The Isle Co. plans on expanding its online outreach through social media.

A unique initiative about the company is how it recycles its old containers. Customers can bring in used and emptied The Isle Co. candle jars to be recycled to receive a percentage off their next candle.

Although The Isle Co. sells all types of body care products, it’s most well-known for its soy candles. Once the wax melts in the candle, the soy oil can be used as a moisturizer on the skin. The soy oil comes in three different forms: the candles, candle melts and a solid lotion bar.

“All of our soy is manufactured under strict instructions to be pure,” Kathy said. “Because of the usage of pure product, it’s safe to use on your skin as a lotion.”

The soy candles are made without using any additives, chemicals or treatment. There are 35 fragrances of candles, including Eucalyptus Mint, Island Colada, Chardonnay, Moonlight and Lemon Verbena.

According to Puckett, the anti-stress candle is popular year-round. The Cucumber Spa candle is a seasonal favorite during the summer, and the Blackberry Sage is widely popular in the fall.

The family has always been entrepreneurial, but The Isle Co. is the first retail store they owned and sold products from. The Isle Co. has been in business for roughly 12 years, and they plan to continue it for generations.

“This business is a gift for us to be able to pursue our passion while having the freedom and flexibility to care for our family,” Slye said.
It's funny how baseball jersey numbers can mean much more than a fan can see. Shortstop Xander Bogaerts of the Boston Red Sox wears No. 2 to represent his favorite player Derek Jeter and right fielder Jason Heyward of the Chicago Cubs wears No. 22 to honor a former high school teammate who passed away. When JMU outfielder Adam Sisk trots out in his No. 20 jersey, he does so to honor his father Kevin Sisk, who once played for the Dukes.

Kevin played baseball at JMU from 1990-91 after transferring from a junior college. He was one of the Dukes' best players during those seasons playing shortstop, which led him to be drafted by the Kansas City Royals in the 39th round of the 1991 amateur draft. Kevin spent just one season in Minor League Baseball before hanging up his cleats, but his love for baseball never dissipated — a love he instilled in his son.

Growing up, Kevin noticed Adam's passion for baseball early. From the first time Kevin put a plastic bat in Adam's hands, Adam was hooked. He would spend hours in their backyard hitting wiffle balls and playing with his neighborhood friends.

He introduced me to the game when I was really young and I fell in love with it," Adam said. "It was partly because of how awesome this game is, and partly because he was my dad and my hero, so I wanted to be like him and do everything he did."

One particular memory that stood out to Kevin that truly showed him Adam's commitment to the game came when Adam was 11 years old. At the time, Kevin was Adam's little league head coach, and after a kickball accident at school, Adam injured his hip. They had a game later that day against one of the best teams in the league, and although Adam couldn’t run, he convinced his father he could still hit. Sure enough, in Adam's first at-bat, he hit a screamer off the fence and hobbled to first base while his dad stared in amazement.

"He just stuck his bat out there and it was very Kurt Gibson-like," Kevin said. "I just thought to myself, 'Good gosh, I don’t even know what to say.'"

When it came time to pick a college, Kevin made sure Adam knew it was his decision on where he wanted to go. However, when Adam got the call saying JMU wanted him to play ball for them, he had no other choice.

"He always told me to go where I wanted to go and not to go here just because he did," Adam said. "I made my decision to come here because I love this school. It's given me every opportunity to be successful, and of course it's cool to come here and play baseball just like my dad did and wear his number."

The Sisk boys aren't the only ones to rep purple and gold. Adam's mother Colleen also attended JMU in the early '90s, where she met her future husband Kevin. Adam's sister Emma is the newest Duke in the family, currently wrapping up her freshman year.

JMU Director of Broadcast Services Curt Dudley has worked with the entire Sisk family during his 20-year career with the Dukes. Dudley believes their impact has gone beyond baseball.

"The Sisk family has been a good family," Dudley said. "Emma and Adam have always been very respectful to me, and I’m sure that Kevin and Colleen wouldn’t have it any other way. They enjoy the game of baseball, but they also understand how to continue to form relationships outside of the game."

Adam has built his own legacy at JMU over his illustrious college career. He's currently hitting .301 at the plate this season, leads the team in runs (28) and is tied for first in RBIs (27). Adam owns a career .294/.398/.477 slash line with 21 home runs, 94 RBIs and 121 runs scored. He hit a career-high .337 in his junior year, which led him to winning Second Team All-CAA honors in 2017.

At 21-20 (6-9 CAA), the Dukes have had an up-and-down season. However, Adam has been as steady as ever, providing leadership and firepower at the top half of the JMU lineup. As for Kevin, there's nothing better than cheering on his son at every Dukes home game.

"I couldn't be more proud of him," Kevin said. "One, he's a great son and just a great young man, and from a baseball standpoint I've seen him grow tremendously. I think the current coaching staff have shown him how to be a leader and I think that Adam has taken that to the next level."

Contact Connor McCarthy at mccartcs@dukes.jmu.edu. For more baseball coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter at @TheBreezeSports.
By NOAH ZIEGLER  
*The Breeze*

For athletes, transferring schools is an opportunity to get more playing time and find the right place to develop. In the case of JMU men’s tennis senior Théophile Lanthiez, transferring to JMU wasn’t only for change — it allowed him to lead a rising program.

Born in Villepreux, France, Lanthiez grew up and trained with the best France has to offer. Before he arrived in the United States, he trained at the French Tennis Federation Center and earned a Sweet 16 appearance in the French National Championship. Lanthiez began his collegiate career at Old Dominion, where he primarily played doubles. After his sophomore season, the Frenchman decided a change was needed.

“I was not playing as much as I wanted to there,” Lanthiez said. “They had a really good team, but I wanted to go to another team where I could bring everything I could bring to the court and my teammates.”

For Lanthiez, transferring schools was like starting college again. He had to acclimate to a lot of changes, both school-wise and in terms of meeting new people. Luckily for him, head coach Steve Secord and the seniors on the men’s tennis team helped him adjust to life in Harrisonburg.

His first season at JMU saw him at a higher spot on the team in both doubles and singles. Lanthiez found himself beside then-freshman Paul Mendoza at first doubles, where the pair went 10-6 in the regular season and earned All-CAA Second Team. On top of his success in doubles, Lanthiez went 4-0 as No. 5 singles.

“I knew what he was capable of,” Secord said. “He was happy to be playing again since he didn’t get to play as much. Him and Paul had a great combination, and any time you have a doubles team that can win pretty consistently is positive.”

Heading into his last collegiate season, Lanthiez didn’t set a specific goal he wanted to achieve. Instead, he just wanted to improve overall, play high in the lineup and be a good doubles player with rising junior Paul Mendoza.

“This past season was a stepping stone for JMU men’s tennis in terms of laying down the foundation for future success. Overall, the team went 16-7 (4-3 CAA), and despite falling in the quarterfinals of the CAA Championships, Lanthiez enjoyed his time at JMU.”

“It was a great time,” Lanthiez said. “I made some really good friends. My favorite thing about JMU was D-Hub, but I don’t like it anymore.”

Over his two seasons as a Duke, Lanthiez thrived playing doubles with Mendoza. In 2018, the two went 16-6, but Mendoza says his teammate did more than just help get to a good record.

“Lanthiez has helped me a good amount,” Mendoza said. “I came in not knowing what to expect. He played two years at a previously ranked school, so he was able to give me a lot of advice about the singles tournaments he went through and the doubles matches against competitive teams.”

When asked to describe Lanthiez in one word, Secord struggled to find the perfect fit. “French” and “feisty” were words thrown out, but neither seemed to be how Secord would describe him. Then, like a light bulb popping above his head, he came to a conclusion.

“Reflective,” Secord said. “He’s very analytical. He’s good at looking and being honest with himself, whether it be what he does well, what he needs to improve on, things like that. I think that’s hard to do with any sport, especially tennis.”

Lanthiez is set to graduate this upcoming December, where his plan is to return to France and study more. Since he’ll be spending the fall semester at JMU, he’ll be helping out the team as it trains through its fall season.

Lanthiez saw an opportunity for a new start at JMU. As his college career is finished, his impact on JMU men’s tennis will serve for a bright future.

**CONTACT** Noah Ziegler at zieglernh@dukes.jmu.edu. For more tennis coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter at @TheBreezeSports.
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Is Baker Mayfield an NFL quarterback?

Winner’s attitude will see Baker thrive in NFL

By JAMES FARIS
The Breeze

Stop the madness. Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield isn’t and never will be Russell Wilson; he’s far closer to Johnny Manziel than Johnny Unitas. So much of an NFL quarterback’s success is contingent on coaching, situational fit and support, which explains why there are many football players who excel in college but disappoint in the pros. Mayfield is another example of an incredible collegiate quarterback whose game won’t translate to success at the next level.

NFL quarterbacks aren’t just signal-callers, but leaders on the field and ambassadors off it, representing multi-billion dollar businesses. Mayfield, though one of the most successful college quarterbacks in history, has shown he isn’t ready to be trusted in this position.

Not worth the headache

By BLAKE PACE
The Breeze

Those worried about Baker Mayfield’s transition to the NFL need to relax and take a deep breath. He isn’t the next Johnny Manziel or the second coming of Colt McCoy — who’ve combined for 30 interceptions, 26 fumbles and a 9-24 record. He’s also not the next undersized great like Drew Brees or Russell Wilson — who, combined, have 207 wins, 684 total touchdowns and career quarterback ratings of 96.7 and 98.8, respectively. What we’ll get is a median of the two types of quarterback — making Mayfield a serviceable starter at the next level and worthy of a top pick in this year’s NFL Draft.

The biggest concern with Mayfield, one that’s overblown, is his antics on and off the field. He’s labeled as arrogant, immature and unfit to lead a locker room in the NFL. What those in the media fail to understand is that Mayfield is exactly what NFL locker rooms are looking for. Some of the best quarterbacks in the league — Tom Brady, Aaron Rodgers and Cam Newton — are labeled with the same arrogance as Mayfield but are beloved by teammates and coaching staffs. There’s a reason there haven’t been any headlines or stories coming out of Oklahoma bashing his behavior — he’s beloved by the organization because of his personality, not hated for it.

In OU’s toughest contests last year — Ohio State, Oklahoma State, TCU (twice) and Georgia — Mayfield completed over 68 percent of his passes, scored 18 total touchdowns and threw just three interceptions while posting an average quarterback rating of 201. It’s safe to say Baker handled pressure exceptionally and performed to his highest potential against big-time competition.

Now, like I’ve said, Mayfield isn’t Wilson. The difference between the two is that Wilson ran a pro-style offense at Wisconsin — making him more prepared coming out of college. While Mayfield ran a high school-like offense, he’s been great this year at executing pro concepts such as reading through progressions and staying in the pocket for extended amounts of time. Just like Wilson, Baker will have had five years of experience at the collegiate level — setting him up for a smooth transition to the NFL.

Mayfield doesn’t fit every offensive scheme within the NFL, but there are a few — like the offenses run by the Jets, 49ers and Saints — that would be ideal pairings to highlight his strengths. Additionally, offensive play-callers are starting to adjust their schemes to fit their new, young quarterbacks such as with Carson Wentz, Deshaun Watson and Jared Goff, making even more pairings possible for Baker in the NFL.

At the least, Mayfield will be a starting quarterback in the NFL. When evaluating quarterbacks at the collegiate level, the most important things to look at are accuracy, toughness and decision-making — three qualities Mayfield possesses in excess. Considering the concerns about the other quarterbacks who’ll be selected in this year’s draft, Mayfield is by far the most NFL-ready quarterback and — given the right pairing — has the potential to turn himself into a franchise quarterback.

Several outbursts of immaturity indicate the talented passer isn’t cut out for the pros. According to Sports Illustrated’s Jack Dickey, “Before facing Baylor on Sept. 23, [Mayfield] told the Bears, “You forgot who Daddy is. I’m going to have to have to spank you today.”

If reading that statement doesn’t cause general managers to cringe, they should draft Mayfield by all means. If it were my decision, I’d run as fast as I could in the other direction. It’s not that successful quarterbacks and people never say regrettable things, it’s that a trail of unfortunate quotes and immature outbursts suggest Mayfield isn’t ready to lead a franchise at the next level.

From flicking off opponents to grabbing his crotch and yelling at the Kansas sideline, Mayfield exhibits a brash arrogance in his reckless decisions and seems to be oblivious to the fact that the entire world, including NFL scouts, is watching. After touchdowns, Mayfield often celebrates by running in the opposite direction of his team and flexing his muscles for the fans instead of giving credit to teammates. This apparent lack of self-awareness is alarming, but it’s not the only reason why Mayfield should be off the draft boards of well-run NFL teams.

 Granted, Mayfield is talented, and in many ways the perfect college quarterback. He’s well-deserving of the Heisman trophy as well as the accolades and attention he’s received. In fact, in the history of college football, the two best seasons by passer rating are both by Mayfield in 2016 and 2017. However, gaudy statistics and even a Heisman trophy don’t guarantee NFL success — just ask Matt Leinart, Troy Smith, Tim Tebow or Manziel. In fact, among quarterbacks who’ve won the Heisman, more turn out to be busts than above-average passers. Drafting Mayfield solely because of his success at Oklahoma is a mistake.

Off-the-field issues aside — not to mention Mayfield’s arrest — the best way to evaluate Mayfield as an NFL prospect is projecting his future success. Mayfield is accurate and athletic, but has an average arm and is shorter than most starting quarterbacks at around six feet tall. Yes, Wilson and Drew Brees are around six feet tall and have won Super Bowls, but what those future Hall of Famers have that makes them special is a combination of leadership, maturity and preparation that Mayfield won’t match.

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

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Service learned, off to give it back
Student travels to Tanzania to help develop technology for therapeutic tasks

By KAILEY CHENG
The Breeze

She used to be a shy, to-herself girl, according to her mother. Now, after seven alternative break service trips and four years indulged in the health sciences major, times have surely changed for senior Amber Bell. After walking the stage at graduation, Bell plans to intern in the vast African country of Tanzania for nine months.

For Bell, nine months is a momentous jump, as the rest of her service trips have only been a week long. Despite this, her passion for service rises above the time frame. In July, Bell will be interning under an occupational therapist who is working to help vulnerable communities through arts, health and environmental conservation. She will be working with the therapist to develop technology that will be used for therapeutic tasks and will be promoting the Children’s Agenda Initiative — a national advocacy strategy for children’s rights in Tanzania.

“This internship will be the longest abroad service I’ve done,” senior and health sciences major, Bell said. “I’m really nervous because I’m going by myself, but I’m also glad I am because it’ll force me to get outside of my comfort zone. It’ll cause me to stick through it and learn more about myself.”

From her undergraduate education, Bell was able to learn about the healthcare system in the U.S., but wishes to see what it’s like elsewhere. Her end goal is to become an occupational therapist herself, and according to Bell, her internship abroad will give her a different perspective than what she expects to learn in graduate school.

“There’s some really good parts of the U.S. healthcare system, but also some really terrible parts of it,” Bell said. “I feel like being able to go somewhere else and actually fully experience their healthcare system, I’ll be able to bring back the good parts of that and implement those solutions into my practice.”

As Bell defines it, occupational therapy revolves around teaching functional life skills. She plans to work with disabled people as well as children who are in need of therapy. From this experience, she hopes to become more culturally aware by participating in the African community.

“I’m most excited about becoming a part of a culture I’m not used to and being able to help them in a way that’s not trying to impose my values on them. When I come back and become an occupational therapist, I’m going to see people from different backgrounds, and I want to understand where other people are coming from.”

The process of deciding where Bell wanted to go for her internship was thought out with her roommate, senior and studio art major, Jessica Miller. Together, they discussed her options and the details that accompanied each of them, trying to decide which one would be a good fit for her.

“Knowing Bell since 2014, Miller has seen Bell’s service trip to Tanzania will be her longest to date. Her end goal is to become an occupational therapist. In order to help them the most, you have to be able to be a part of the community,” Bell said. “It’s really been exciting to see her grow and conquer her fears, and do it even when she’s afraid. Service has been her heart, desire and passion, and I will do anything it takes to support her.”

In the end, after four years of trying to find her calling, Bell found it. For Bell, she strives to dedicate her time to the underprivileged in order to help them improve their lives, and improve her career as a future occupational therapist.

“A piece of advice I’ve gotten from a friend is to lean into discomfort,” Bell said. “It’s uncomfortable moving to Africa for nine months. I’ve never been in that situation before, but I think that I’m going to grow so much.”

CONTACT Kailey Cheng at chengks@dukes.jmu.edu.

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  - Add Meatballs $2.50

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- Each Additional Topping
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- Hawaiian Pizza  (Ham & Pineapple)
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- Vegetarian Special
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lasagna</td>
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<td>Fettuccini Alfredo</td>
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<td>Penne Spinach &amp; Mushrooms</td>
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<td>Marinara</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homemade Meatballs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fresh Homemade Garlic Bread</td>
<td>.70 cents per person with 10 person minimum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garden Salad</td>
<td>$21.95</td>
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</tbody>
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Globe-trotting Graduate

Student plans to enter cultural exchange program in Spain after graduation

By TRACI RASDORF
The Breeze

Growing up, Eliana Huffman had always been curious about the world. It was no surprise to her friends that her post-graduation plans included spending two and a half months traveling throughout Europe. Though her parents questioned her decision, it was clear this trip would be an important and life-changing event for Huffman.

“I started applying for jobs and kept thinking, ‘I don’t have any more summer or winter breaks.’ It’s vacation time at this point, so at this point in my life, why not?” Huffman said. “I’ve always loved traveling, and when I did the semester abroad that was kind of my first taste of it, so I figured, ‘Why not just do another two and a half months somewhere I want?’”

Huffman is a double major in media arts and design and communications. While studying abroad in London, she learned about the cultural exchange programs Teach for America and Workaway, which sparked her interest in going back to Spain. Two days after graduation, Huffman will be staying with a family for about five weeks, helping teach them English.

“They have two kids and I will be playing with them in English and helping the parents,” Huffman said. “The mom is a secondary school teacher, so she wants to perfect her English essentially. I’ll also be able to learn Spanish from them and, of course, all their friends and community members.”

Huffman will be staying in Jerez De La Frontera and is nervous about her ability to speak and write in Spanish. She explains that she could’ve translated Spanish to English for small businesses, but wanted to challenge herself in an environment where she was forced to speak Spanish everywhere she went. Using WhatsApp, Huffman messaged multiple different families — even calling some through Skype — to pick who she would spend her five weeks with.

“I think this trip to Spain, what she’s doing is kind of total immersion,” her father Jason Huffman, said. “She’s going to a European country she wanted to go to anyhow, but not to go for just a couple days or a week. She’s going to go and live with a family where she’s part of a culture. I think that’s really cool and I’m really proud of her for being brave enough to do that.

Not everybody would do that.”

After her time with the family, she will be spending another couple months backpacking throughout other European countries, including Greece and Italy. She will be staying with international friends but will be on her own some of the time. Olivia Stephens, senior communications major and Eliana’s friend, expresses that she is the perfect person for a trip such as this.

“She is very funny and I think her humor translates well to a lot of different types of people which makes her a good person to travel around the world,” Stephens said. “But also, I think that she is so globally minded just in her day-to-day life. She’s always thinking about things from a global perspective and you can even just tell from her majors and minors she has a very broad interest set.”

Originally, Huffman had multiple friends attending the trip with her, but eventually they all backed out of the plans. Feeling intimidated, Huffman had to accept the idea she would be going alone.

“It started off as a challenge feeling like I was going to be alone and now I’m excited that I actually have the opportunity to meet new people through hostels, programs and things like that,” Huffman said. “So like I’m doing three days in Morocco by myself. Things like that I feel like will be a good personal growth opportunities.”

Upon her return, Huffman will be starting her new job as an account coordinator for Alexandria, Virginia-based company 300 Brand, a full service marketing and public relations agency. Enthusiastic about the opportunities that lie ahead, she credits her positive experiences to the SMAD program. In the future, Huffman intends to work toward a master’s degree in business administration in marketing and continue to travel.

“I love the excitement JMU has given me about my career,” Huffman said. “I don’t feel nervous going into it, I feel prepared. I feel like I’ve made a lot of great connections here. I definitely feel confident that JMU has prepared me and given me amazing friends too. I think that’s the thing I’m going to miss the most.”

CONTACT Traci Rasdorf at rasdortl@dukes.jmu.edu.
The sit-in, which took place in February, was in protest of the repeal of DACA. Students took up most of the Wilson steps to ensure passersby would notice.

Staunton hosted its annual Mischief & Magic event.

A puppy sits in a bed of streamers after the “College GameDay” bus arrived on JMU’s campus in October.

White Oak Lavender Farm aims to help its customers relieve stress and enjoy the outdoors.

Poke Alakai brought Hawaiian cuisine to Harrisonburg in April.
In August, the city of Harrisonburg hosted a vigil on Court Square in solidarity with Charlottesville.

The Quad was blanketed after a few hours of steady snowfall and slush covered roads and walkways. Dr. Ronald “Uncle Ron” Carrier passed away in September.

The Dukes took a trip to Frisco in January for the FCS National Championship.

In October 2017, Jesse McCartney performed in JMU’s Wilson Auditorium.
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After graduation, one JMU business major will be sitting at a desk in Viacom's headquarters with a view of Times Square. Haley Yates, a senior marketing major, will begin a job at Nickelodeon as a licensing coordinator May 14. This full-time position comes after Yates interned with the company last summer.

As a licensing coordinator, Yates will be working with companies that request to license Nickelodeon's artwork. Everything from mac and cheese to stuffed toys must be licensed by Nickelodeon before secondary companies, such as Fisher Price or Kraft, can use them in their products.

"I'll be the connection between the outside companies and my bosses," Yates said. "So everything, even like a little thing you get in a video game, has to be approved by Nickelodeon because it's their characters and they want it to look right."

Yates explored other job opportunities in case there wasn't an opening at Viacom, the company that owns Nickelodeon, after graduation. However, she received a call in March offering her a position in the same department she worked in before: the Boys' Toys Team.

For Yates, the biggest advantage of this job is that she knows she'll enjoy working there because of her prior experience. She explained that she was excited to go to work every day during her internship.

"I never was treated like an intern," Yates said. "They made me feel like a part of the team, which I think is really rare so I was extremely fortunate."

When Yates applied for her internship, she interviewed with a general recruiter. She requested a position with Viacom's networks she was most familiar with — MTV and Nickelodeon. Yates grew up watching Nickelodeon and remembers loving the shows "Rugrats" and "Spongebob SquarePants." Moments before her final interview for the internship, Yates received an email requesting that they Skype instead of speaking over the phone.

Yates had just gotten out of the shower and had to get dressed and find a quiet place. Despite her initial nerves, she felt the interview was mostly about seeing if she would fit well with the team.

"It was the most relaxed and calm I'd ever felt after an interview," Yates said. "It felt like it had really gone well. It wasn't these super hard questions or anything like that. Looking back I was probably so awkward compared to now that I know them."

Andy Wood, the chair of the marketing department at JMU, met Yates a year ago and has taught her in two classes. He feels Nickelodeon noticed the same qualities in Yates that he has seen in her.

"She genuinely is inquisitive," Wood said. "She has communication skills, has good listening [skills], is pleasant, is enjoyable to have a conversation with."

When Wood met Yates, he felt her energy made her stick out. He noticed this enthusiasm carries over into class, where she is eager to learn and always sits in the front row.

Christina Trombadore, a senior hospitality major, is Yates' best friend and roommate. Trombadore agrees Yates' perseverance will lead to her success.

"She's just so proud of getting to work there, so she carries around so much pride, so much energy and Nickelodeon needs that being with Viacom," Trombadore said. "I think she'll fit in really well."

Trombadore and Yates have supported each other since they were hallmates freshman year. Trombadore advises Yates to stay true to herself as her career advances.

Yates' professors Wood and Theresa Clarke agreed that she should hold on to her enthusiasm and love for learning as she transitions into the workplace. Clarke, Yates' marketing professor, witnessed Yates' go-getter attitude first hand when a client fell through for her group's project. Yates was her team's leader and took charge to get her team caught up to the rest of the class.

"It ended up being a whole lot more work for her and her team, but I was highly impressed with her perseverance and her desire to do high quality work," Clarke said.

As far as Yates' future, she hopes to progress at Nickelodeon and wants to enroll in NYU's marketing master's program. Wood expects Yates to do great things and feels she has a good fit for Viacom.

"I think it'll be a win-win situation for both of them," Wood said. "She won't just be Nickelodeon, she'll get into that industry, and then there will be other opportunities, maybe for some new channel that gets launched and then she'll take a lead on developing that new channel. The future is bright, I just don't know where it'll be for her."
By BLAKE PACE
The Breeze

It was an eye-opening Wednesday night on March 25, 2015 when JMU lacrosse earned its eighth win of the season. An 18-5 lashing of the Liberty Eagles saw brilliant performances from senior midfielder Alison Curwin — who boasted a game-high five goals — and senior attacker Stephanie Finley — who chimed in with seven points of her own on four goals and three assists.

For the 2015 Dukes, this was a solid performance for the eventual CAA champions — a team that went 15-5 (5-1 CAA) on the season. However, this was a game as much for the future of JMU lacrosse than it was for the present.

Then-freshmen attacker Kristen Gaudian and midfielder Elena Romesburg saw limited action throughout the 2015 campaign, but both gave a glimpse of what was to come in the second half of the game against Liberty. Gaudian recorded her second and final goal of the season with just over two minutes remaining in the game, while Romesburg had a game-high three ground balls for the Dukes. While their impact on the field would come in later years, their confidence was something that couldn’t be shaken from day one.

“We’ve had a lot of trust in them right from the get-go,” head coach Shelly Klaes-Bawcombe said. “As younger players I had to convince the upperclassmen that they needed to be on the field ... and now they’re the full package.”

Three years, 40 wins, and a combined 276 points later, the duo has placed itself among the greats of JMU lacrosse. While both have become household names in collegiate women’s lacrosse, they’ve continued to blossom over the years — Gaudian totaled 12 points in 2016, 60 in 2017 and has 71 this season, while Romesburg contributed 28 points as a sophomore, 47 as a junior and 58 through this year’s regular season.

“They’ve just been gradually making progress in their game every year and then exploding in their senior year,” Klaes-Bawcombe said. “It’s exactly what you’re looking for as a coach. There wasn’t a roller coaster ride, there wasn’t huge leaps up and down, there was just a gradual improvement because of their hard work and dedication.”

That same consistent growth has placed them alongside the elites in JMU athletics. Romesburg, a history major herself, is tied for seventh at JMU in career draw controls (134) and tied for seventh all-time in career free-position goals (32). Gaudian, meanwhile, ranks 18th at JMU in career goals (120) and third in free-position goals (37). Playing alongside each other has served as a motivator for both, fueling the two to exceed expectations they never thought possible.

If there was one moment to capture the careers of Gaudian, Romesburg and the 2018 senior class, it came April 18 in their 15-10 victory over No. 17 Virginia. After losing to the Cavaliers each of the previous three seasons, the victory was an emotional experience for a JMU team that’s continued to break barriers this season.

“After beating U. Va., [senior defender] Rebecca Tooker came into the locker room crying,” Romesburg said. “It just showed the pure emotion [of how] it’s taken us four years to beat this team. [The win] was so incredibly special, it was such a team effort and the raw emotion of that moment symbolized us as a class.”

While it remains to be seen just how far this team will go, it remains the favorite to win the CAA championship for the third time in four seasons and is confident in its ability to go the distance in the NCAA Women’s Lacrosse Championship. No matter where they end up, the seniors have turned this season into something they’ll remember for the rest of their lives.

“It’s been awesome,” Gaudian said. “As a senior class we’ve chosen that we want to be the best class that’s ever gone through JMU. We want to leave with a bang and really make a mark on JMU and I think that’s right where we are.”

CONTACT Blake Pace at breezesports@gmail.com.

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A YEAR IN REVIEW

Oct. 28, 2017
Men’s soccer beats Drexel 1-0 to claim regular season CAA title for first time since 2011 season.

Oct. 14, 2017
ESPN’s “College GameDay” returns to JMU for second time in three years.

Aug. 18, 2017
Women’s soccer gets 2017-18 JMU sports season underway against Boston College.

Nov. 18, 2017
Volleyball beats College of Charleston to claim CAA title – the Dukes’ second straight conference title.

Dec. 16, 2017
Football beats SDSU 51-16 to advance to second straight national title game.

Nov. 10, 2017
Cross Country has 3 runners place top 50 in NCAA regional tournament.

Nov. 18, 2017
Volleyball beats College of Charleston to claim CAA title – the Dukes’ second straight conference title.

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A look back at the biggest moments of JMU sports in 2017-18

Feb. 17, 2018
Swimming and diving wins CAA title for first time in six years.

Feb. 10, 2018
Lacrosse beats No. 3 UNC 15-14 in first game of the year, propelling the Dukes into a top-five spot in the nation.

April 21, 2018
Women’s tennis beats College of Charleston to advance to CAA finals.

May 5, 2018
2017-18 JMU school year comes to close with graduation.

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