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Tristan Lorei

CULTURE

14

PATH TO PROFESSIONALISM

Undergraduate research journal encourages students to submit their findings to enhance their education

NEWS

6

SPRING SPORTS SUPPLEMENT: PREVIEWING THE UPCOMING SEASONS IN JMU SPORTS

STEP DOWN

The Breeze calls for Gov. Ralph Northam and Attorney General Mark Herring to resign amid racial

OPINION

10

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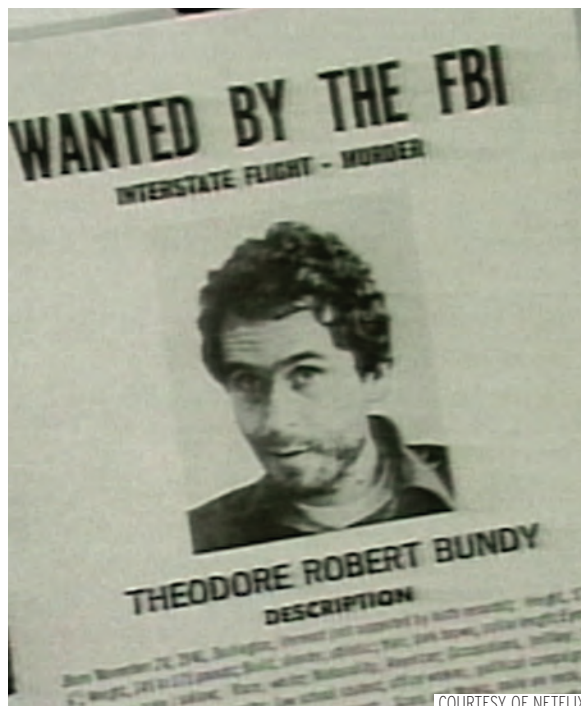
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DIALECT DIVERSITY

There are over 50 languages spoken in Harrisonburg City Public Schools

NEWS

4



COURTESY OF NETFLIX

WHAT LURKS BEHIND THE MASK

College students should heed the Ted Bundy Tapes on Netflix as a warning of the realities of charming criminals

OPINION

11



CHASE DOWNEY / THE BREEZE

NEWEST FACES OF JMU

Head coach of JMU football officially adds 13 recruits for the 2019 season

SPORTS

22

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The Breeze, the student-run newspaper of James Madison University, serves student, faculty and staff readership by reporting news involving the campus and local community. The Breeze strives to be impartial and fair in its reporting and firmly believes in First Amendment rights.

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Thursday, February 7, 2019



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Local schools welcome diverse population



With 49 countries represented by its students, HCPS offers multicultural classes and programs for both students and teachers

HEATHER ECKSTINE / THE BREEZE

The HCPS system offers a free graduate course for teachers on the integration of different languages in the classroom. About 15-20 teachers take the course annually.

By **MITCHELL SASSER**
The Breeze

Fifty-three languages and 49 countries are represented by students currently attending Harrisonburg City Public Schools. Approximately 2,030 children are identified language learners in the HCPS system and account for 33 percent of children in grades K-12.

Laura Feichtinger McGrath, an English as a second language coordinator for HCPS, began working for the city in 1998. According to McGrath, less than 5 percent of HCPS students were identified as English Language Learners and 85 percent were Caucasian when she began.

"We're definitely a lot different now," McGrath said. "Our ethnic breakdown and race as defined by the federal indicators, right now we're about 45 percent Hispanic and only

about 35 percent white, and within our white population, probably a third of those students are from the Middle East and from Russian-speaking countries."

McGrath is tasked with overseeing the Title III language instruction program, which is rooted in the 14th Amendment. It's a federal grant created with the goal of ensuring that identified language learners have equal access to all opportunities that public schools provide. She also supports students and their families in HCPS.

Teachers are expected to participate in a mandatory 20-hour workshop on working with culturally and linguistically diverse students within their first three years of employment. HCPS also offers a free graduate course on integrating language and content instruction in the classroom, taken by 15-20 teachers a year.

"We're lucky because we have these moral guidelines, but then we also look around, we're like, these are our kids, they're all our kids and there is a lot of them, and they're all very different," McGrath said. "You can't just talk about language learners as if they are a monolithic group, because they are so not homogenous. They are incredibly complex and each student has their own story and their own path, just like every other kid we have in our schools."

At Harrisonburg High School, there are 45 students new to the U.S. this year. McGrath ensures there are classes suitable for all of them. She believes JMU has adjusted to meet the needs of a shifting demographic population in Harrisonburg.

"We get JMU folks who can come over and do some work with our teachers and of course the

students in the [Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages] program," McGrath said. "It's been a pretty symbiotic relationship."

Katya Koubek, an associate professor of education and TESOL coordinator, provides instruction and assistance to students as they pursue eligibility for a Virginia teaching licence in ESL.

She believes that one of the reasons for the amount of languages in Harrisonburg is because it is a refugee resettlement area. Opportunities for jobs are what bring families to the city according to Koubek.

"Schools, as I know, have received new students in the middle of the academic year," Koubek said. "There is constant movement of students from different countries to Harrisonburg and other refugee resettlement areas."

2,030

students in
Harrisonburg City
Public Schools
are identified
language learners

53

languages
are spoken in
HCPS

45

percent of
students in HCPS
are Hispanic



Senior French major Emily Hadfield is student teaching for the TESOL licensure program for her minor at Harrisonburg High School. The program's goal is to "prepare future educators to understand and implement more equitable and effective ways of working with English Language Learners."

Hadfield believes that since HCPS is becoming more diverse, there's a huge need for ESL teachers. She also thinks the "JMU bubble" isn't representative of how Harrisonburg looks as a whole, especially its students.

"They come from all over the world and have all sorts of different backgrounds, different languages, different cultures, different educational backgrounds," Hadfield said. "Some have spent most of their lives in refugee camps. Some have been highly educated in their home countries and are just coming here to finish. They have such diverse needs and it's really critical that we do everything we can to support

them, love them, build relationships with them, to meet them where they're at."

The Dual Language Immersion Program at HCPS has 50 percent native English speakers and 50 percent Spanish speakers. This program was designed as the best way for the school system to educate students to maximize their potential, according to McGrath. It's found in five of six HCPS elementary schools, a push to have youth bilingual by high school.

"Now, I feel like I have a global experience right here in Harrisonburg," McGrath said. "It's really important for us to look outside our windows and see what's actually there instead of what we think might be there."

CONTACT Mitchell Sasser at sasserm@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.

At Harrisonburg High School alone, there are 45 students new to the U.S. this year and there's a total of 2,030 children in the HCPS system that are identified language learners.

HEATHER ECKSTINE / THE BREEZE



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National and state news found via Associated Press

NATIONAL

Trump delivers State of the Union address

President Donald Trump maintained his hard-line stance on immigration and called for an end to “ridiculous partisan investigations” in his State of the Union address on Tuesday night. The speech came just ahead of the Feb. 15 deadline to avoid another government shutdown, and Trump maintained his intention to build a border wall despite the Democrats’ refusal to support the wall.

Jurors in El Chapo case begin day three of deliberations

Jurors returned to Brooklyn federal court for a third day of deliberations Wednesday regarding the trial of Mexican drug lord Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman. The panel sent notes to the judge Tuesday indicating interest in Guzman’s alleged attempts to include methamphetamine in his smuggling operation. The defense argues government cooperators are making him a scapegoat to cover up their own crimes. Guzman will face life in prison if convicted on drug-trafficking charges.

STATE

Virginia Attorney General admits to wearing blackface

Mark Herring, the Virginia attorney general, admitted to putting on blackface to look like a rapper at a University of Virginia party in 1980. Herring’s statement came days after a racist photo involving blackface was found in Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam’s (D) yearbook page. Herring said he was “deeply, deeply sorry for the pain that I cause with this revelation.”

Atlantic Coast Pipeline delayed to 2021 due to cost increases

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline, a natural gas pipeline that will run through West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina, has been delayed due to a cost increase of nearly \$3 billion. According to The Fayetteville Observer, the Atlantic Coast Pipeline LLC announced Friday that the pipeline, which was expected to be in service this year, won’t be completed until 2021.

LOCAL

Harrisonburg mayor named to list of distinguished Virginians

Harrisonburg Mayor Deanna Reed was one of seven people named to the “Strong Men and Women in Virginia History,” a list created by Dominion Energy and the Library of Virginia in observance of Black History Month. The list showcases African-Americans who “have actively campaigned through education and advocacy for better lives for themselves, their people, and all Americans.”

ARREST REPORTS

Data courtesy of Harrisonburg Police Department

53

arrests from
Jan. 28 - Feb. 3, 2018

vs.

76

arrests from
Jan. 28 - Feb. 3, 2019

Top three arrests from Jan. 28 - Feb. 3

- Unlawful purchase or possession of alcohol = 13
- Probation violation = 7
- Contempt of court = 7



MAIRIN DUFFY / THE BREEZE

The journal can help students showcase their work to graduate schools and potential employers.

‘More than a grade’

James Madison Undergraduate Research Journal provides publishing opportunity for students to gain credibility outside classroom

By **BRIDGET MURPHY**
The Breeze

As undergraduates progress through their schooling, many conduct research endeavors, scholarly work and multimedia projects. The James Madison Undergraduate Research Journal has created an opportunity for undergraduates to have their work displayed beyond the classroom and be published for a wider audience to establish a level of professionalism and credibility.

While there have been multiple undergraduate research journals over the years at JMU, the JMURJ is the most

recent publication open to students. It was reconstituted in 2013 from the 2007-09 version, which lasted for one volume. The goal is to allow students to see what work they may be involved with after college and promote the idea that students from every discipline can participate.

“We designed it from the ground up, thinking about what the university needed, what would work practically and how it could be sustainable over the years,” Kevin Jefferson, the JMURJ adviser and writing, rhetoric and technical communication professor, said.

Jefferson worked with WRTC instructor Scott Lunsford and nine undergraduate

students to ensure diversity of disciplines throughout the start of the journal into the sixth edition, which is currently in the publishing process.

Including students from different areas of expertise to publish research is aimed at breaking the stereotype that research is only done by graduate students or professors and encourage students to engage with the community beyond the classroom.

After students submit their projects, a team of JMU faculty peer reviews them to decide whether to approve the piece for publication. Last year’s edition included 10 different pieces. They’re hoping to match that number this year.

According to Daniel Vieth ('15 BA, '17 MA), author of "That Sucks?": An Evaluation of the Communication Competence and Enacted Social Support of Response Messages to Depression Disclosures in College-Aged Students," published in the third volume of JMURJ, submitting work for publication can also improve writing skills and confidence. His scholarly article focuses on the idea of how communicating with others can help people deal with depression in a better way.

Vieth worked on the article as a class project in fall 2015 because he saw it as an opportunity to bring some positivity to the topic of depression. After seeing a promotion email from JMURJ, Vieth spoke with his professor to try and take his article beyond the classroom.

"The fact that you can do a whole lot more with your article or whatever you do, it takes it beyond what it was," Vieth said. "You improve the article a lot, it sort of pushes your batteries on how good can you make this project. Other people can find your article and it's peer reviewed, so it goes through the real journalistic message and people can actually cite it. It adds so much more value to the project and makes it worthwhile."

The three rounds of editing and revisions that Vieth went through with JMURJ after submitting his work were in an effort to make sure his writing was the best quality before publication. According to Vieth, the process helped him become a stronger writer, and he's now able to apply it to his current job.

"It was extremely valuable for when I wanted to join a graduate program," Vieth said. "I was able to go into my graduate program and say I've already had something published, because in grad school that's a big thing to do academic articles and bring them to conferences and get things published. It started a chain reaction — helped me get into grad school, gave me

a lot of experience of working with a higher caliber of articles and papers, which helped me get through graduate school, then I got my master's degree and that helped me get a job. It really helped me kick-start my career and having something published like that is a big confidence boost for sure."

Each submission is directed toward the scholarly field it's under with its respective formats and style conventions in mind. According to Jefferson, there have been 450 submissions since the restart of the journal in 2013, totalling about 85 per academic year.

"I think it's definitely benefited the students because it can show what they have studied in their undergraduate career," Dana Webb, JMURJ head of marketing and design and senior media arts and design and English double major, said. "It's a major accomplishment to get their work published because it can be seen all over the world. It's not just seen by people at JMU."

Journals have been published from all seven undergraduate colleges, enabling each student involved to build their resumes and gain experience in their scholarly fields. The rigorous publishing process also exposes students to the editing process of a peer-reviewed journal.

"This journal offers the possibility that what we do here at JMU is for more than a grade, more than a professor, more than a prompt," Jefferson said. "Instead it has valid, vital meaning for a larger audience. It exposes a range of ways of communicating and of knowing the world that we teach, learn and share here."

CONTACT Bridget Murphy at murph2br@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.



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Thursday, February 7, 2019

Harrisonburg police use V-STOP grant to fund domestic violence detective

By **KAMRYN KOCH**
The Breeze

In 2016, the Harrisonburg Police Department was selected as part of a competitive application process to participate in the Virginia Services, Training, Officers, Prosecution grant program. This provided HPD with a three-year grant that created a full-time detective position focusing on crimes against women. The grant has recently been renewed for the 2019-21 period in response to the decrease of domestic violence in the city.

In 1994, Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act as a part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act. The VAWA includes

the STOP grant program, which was created to increase the apprehension, prosecution and adjudication of those who commit violent crimes against women. The program is open to local units of government, state agencies and nonprofit/non-governmental victim services agencies.

Criminal Investigations Division Commander Rod Pollard has 25 years of law enforcement experience and currently oversees the daily operations of the Major Crimes Unit at HPD. According to Pollard, the department chose to use the grant to fund the detective position because of the community's need for this resource as well as its cost effectiveness.



HEATHER ECKSTINE / THE BREEZE

Aaron Dove, HPD's domestic violence detective, works with victims to make sure they have the services they need.

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The grant has been renewed for 2019-21 due to decreasing domestic violence since receiving it in 2016.

“Our department has a specific resource for investigating violent crimes against women that provides a system of accountability and consistency when dealing with very sensitive situations,” Pollard said in an email. “I believe that having a detective assigned to the oversight of growing trends and harms caused by domestic violence is a much needed component of the police department.”

The detective position funded by this grant is currently filled by Aaron Dove, who’s served HPD for eight years in various positions such as patrol officer, school resource officer and officer on the bike unit. He began the detective position in June 2017 and has since worked with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

“One of the main goals for any law enforcement office is to reduce domestic violence in particular,” Dove said. “My job is to reach out to victims or survivors and offer them any services that they need.”

According to the National Statistics Domestic Violence Fact Sheet, one in four women in the U.S. experiences severe intimate partner violence and/or stalking. JMU students aren’t protected from this, and with roughly 70 percent of the population living off campus at JMU according to the U.S. News College Compass, these students fall into Dove’s jurisdiction.

Dove works closely with First Step, a nonprofit community-based organization that provides services to address the issue of domestic violence. First Step Community

Outreach Coordinator Manuela Vazquez educates local leaders and organizations about domestic violence and organizes awareness events for the community.

“With V-STOP, we are able to serve a lot more people, as well as work with them for longer periods of time,” Vazquez said. “Detective Aaron Dove is with them from the beginning until the end of the process, and we’ll check in with them throughout. The V-STOP grant is very useful and effective in making sure that the city of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County residents are able to receive the services necessary.”

Other resources in the area include a Batterers Intervention Program that aids in the elimination of domestic violence by offering a means for batterers to examine their behavior, as well as Blue Ridge Legal Services, which can provide services to victims at no cost if necessary. Additionally, HPD has an on-call detective 24/7. While Dove sometimes has to work outside of when he’s scheduled, he doesn’t believe it’s an issue because of the help he’s able to provide Harrisonburg residents.

“I became a cop to help people, and most of the time, we are seeing people at a low point in their life,” Dove said. “If I can be there to help solve the situation or bring a resource to the victim that helps them through the bad times, that’s why I am here.”

CONTACT Kamryn Koch at kochkr@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.



TANNER LESLIE / THE BREEZE

HPD works with First Step, a nonprofit organization that educates local groups about domestic violence.

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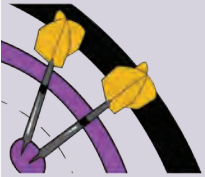
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**DARTS
& PATS**

Want to praise someone or get something off your chest? Darts & Pats is the place to do it. Submit your own at breezejmu.org.

A **"life-saver"** pat to the guy who helped me jumpstart my car at nine at night in 10 degree weather.

From the girl who had no mechanical skills and was desperate to get out of the freezing temperature.

An **"I'm-really-loving-life"** pat to the absolutely beautiful weather we're having in Harrisonburg. I finally got to spend time with my new picnic blanket on the Quad.

From a sophomore who's been waiting for springtime weather after the awful four degree weather earlier this week.

An **"I-understand-this-is-necessary-but-I-still-don't-approve"** dart to JMU's assessment day for making me wake up for my 8 a.m. assessment. Most of my questions were surveys and no actual exams.

From a student who just barely made it out of the required credit hours to take assessments.

The Breeze requests Northam, Herring resign amid blackface incidents

EDITORIAL BOARD | *The Breeze*

The emotions that blackface elicits in 2019 are clear.

They are powerful enough that many are demanding Gov. Ralph Northam step down for donning it over 30 years ago. Attorney General Mark Herring, who was among those saying Northam should resign, came forward Wednesday admitting he made the same mistake as a college student. Despite our reaction of disgust now, in the early days of our country, blackface was a centerpiece of popular culture.

Beginning in the early 19th century, minstrel shows were a primary source of entertainment for the many Americans. In fact, they often served as some of their only encounters with African-American culture. These productions portrayed still-enslaved African-Americans as lazy, simplistic and oafish in collections of skits and songs; the comedy came from watching white actors in black makeup mock their perceived inferiors.

Minstrel shows lost popularity by time the Civil War ended, but the harmful stereotypes they perpetuated were already ingrained in American culture. Jim Crow laws derived their name from the most popular minstrel character while several common racial slurs became ubiquitous through minstrelsy. Depictions of African-Americans as sexual deviants who only excel in song and dance still live to this day.

Mr. Northam and Mr. Herring, we're sure you stand by your apologies for the incidents that have become the biggest topics of conversation among Virginians over the past week. Mr. Northam probably had the best intentions when he said he wants to take the "difficult path" and rectify his mistakes by remaining governor. But if your goals are to promote equality among your constituents and lead a larger conversation surrounding race in Virginia, we ask that you step down and lead that conversation from outside your respective government positions to allow the Commonwealth to move forward with a clean slate.

Though many Virginians are calling for your resignation, we aren't asking for you to run away from your actions. The former does not necessitate the latter. The people of the Commonwealth deserve to see you confront your history, and you deserve the chance to do so. But while you're associated with something as harmful as blackface, remaining in office will only cause more pain and division in Virginia. Your resignation should not be, as Northam put it, "an effort to duck my responsibility to reconcile," but rather the first step down a long road of reconciliation.

Actions speak louder than words. By not stepping down, you're alienating a sector of your constituents who, historically, have been through a long and hard fight for equality and respect.

"The damage that has been done by these revelations is irreparable," the Virginia Black Caucus said in a statement Saturday. "Our confidence in [Northam's] ability to govern for the over 8 million Virginians has been eviscerated."

Virginia has a long history of racism and slavery, one that its population has been trying to amend. Your presence in office negates the work the Commonwealth has done to champion diversity and honesty. As a state and as a country, we'll be unable to move forward under your leadership.

"Virginia has a painful past where racism was too often not called out for its evil," Democratic Congressmen Gerry Connolly and Don Beyer said in a joint statement Saturday. "The only way to overcome that history is to speak and act with absolute moral clarity."

These incidents took place decades ago. Our generation is full of young people like us who are forward-thinking individuals, and our prevailing attitudes regarding blackface are much different now. However, almost 200 years after the rise of blackface, African-Americans still fight many of the same battles for their equality.

The Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville

proved that hatred for African-Americans still exists in a way many are uncomfortable facing. If the sentiment wasn't proven through protesters' chants, picket signs and violence, it was through Grand Wizard David Duke's attendance. Through stereotyping African-Americans, the people who participate in these actions have been taught superiority. The prospect of equality among races threatens those who have thought otherwise their entire lives. It explains the chants of "You will not replace us!" in Charlottesville that day. The seeds of these prejudices are rooted in the stereotypes that blackface perpetuated with minstrel shows.

The mindsets of students in 1984 compared to 2019 are different. But that doesn't change or justify the meaning of your actions. An atrocity like blackface can't be defended by generational differences. In the end, your actions don't represent the ideals higher education stands for.

As members of a community who've seen the impact blackface can have as recently as November, we urge you to understand how crucial it is for those in the political world to realize how your actions can impact those you've never spoken to.

After a former adjunct JMU professor wore blackface to a Halloween party last semester, a group of African-American JMU students gathered to express the wounds it opened. They felt as if they'd been talking to a wall, with no progress being made. No one deserves to feel this way. As students of a Virginia university that's faced the impacts of racism, specifically blackface, it's our duty to speak out against the wrongdoings of those who represent our state.

Gov. Northam and Attorney General Herring, you have a choice — and we implore you to make the right one. Having someone in office who disrespected a minority group at the peak of its civil liberation would send the message that no matter how far we've come, nothing will ever truly change.

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A lesson to be learned

Students should take Ted Bundy films seriously and understand it can happen again

MEGAN KLEPPER | changing perspective



Even though it's been three decades since the execution of infamous serial killer Ted Bundy, his name has been all over the media recently.

Since the release of the Netflix show "Conversations with a Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes," audiences are being captivated by his story. The film "Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile" premiered at Sundance Film Festival in January and features Zac Efron as Bundy and Lily Collins as his girlfriend, Liz Kendall. This renewed interest in Bundy has sparked a controversy. Some critics are saying Efron romanticizes Bundy and doesn't focus on the horrible crimes he committed.

However, at the time of the murders, this is how the world saw Bundy. Bundy passed as an average, all-American man. He convinced his victims he was safe to be around, and they trusted him. During his trial, Bundy became a celebrity. His charm and perceived trustworthiness helped him escape from

custody in Colorado in 1977. People couldn't fathom how someone so seemingly normal could commit such heinous crimes. His mother is shown in the Netflix series explaining how he couldn't have done any of this because he was a "good boy."

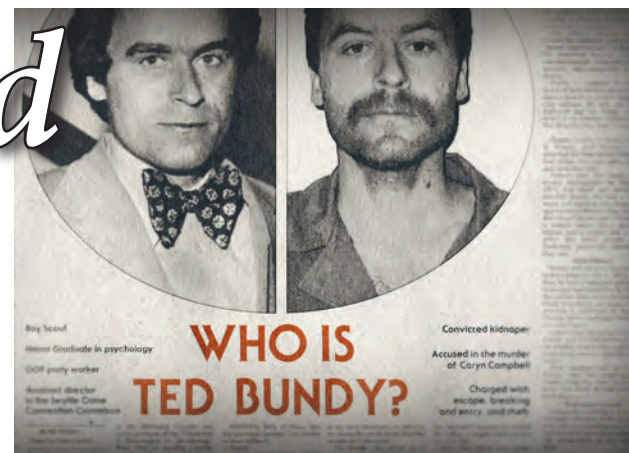
Horrific events on the news concern people, but they really impact people when they're close to where they are. Acts such as sexual assault, rape or murder can happen anywhere. The Netflix show as well as the upcoming film should be a warning for college students, especially women. According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, eight out of 10 sexual assaults are committed by someone who knows the victim. Bundy took advantage of his victims and knew how much they trusted him. These women knew that a killer was on the loose, yet found comfort in Bundy's charming personality and felt protected by him.

In today's society, college females are urged to go to social events in groups and understand the dangers of traveling alone at night. Women travel in groups and even share their locations with one another through their phones using Find My Friends. Despite these precautions, it's hard to identify a dangerous person when they're average-looking or even a friend. Rides such as Uber, Lyft and sober rides on JMU

Facebook pages put strangers in a car together. Yet people trust these strangers to drive according to the GPS and safely drop them off at their destination.

As the popularity of Bundy's story rises, taking advantage of someone's trust needs to raise awareness about the dangers of college campuses. It should also emphasize the importance of group settings as well as awareness of surroundings and social situations. If faced with a dangerous situation, students are urged to call 911 or the JMU Police Department. Students can contact the police department by using their emergency or non-emergency numbers. Officers also offer campus escorts who will walk with students back to their dorms or cars. If someone is scared to walk back to their dorms after a night out or in the library, they should call a campus escort to make sure they feel safe.

There are plenty of reasons for college women to feel safe when walking around campus or coming home from a social event. Furthermore, those reasons give students a sense of relief and



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NETFLIX

Bundy murdered over 30 young girls in several states.

some put their guard down. Efron's portrayal of Bundy, and Bundy himself, prove that the most handsome man in the room can still be the most dangerous.

Megan Klepper is a junior, writing, rhetoric and technical communication major. Contact Megan at kleppemc@dukes.jmu.edu.

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Anxiety in academia

Today's age of deteriorating mental health affects student-teacher interactions and damages well-being of universities

BJ BECKWITH / THE BREEZE

Phil Frana expressed concern over the mental health of himself and his colleagues.

SOPHIA CABANA | *liberté*



It's no secret that students today are more anxious than ever before. Forty million adults in the U.S. suffer from anxiety, and three quarters of them develop anxiety by the age

of 22 when they're college-aged adults. It's no secret that our generation's outlook is just as responsible for our anxiety as the situation in the world around us. Difficult external situations are compounded by the self-defeating perfectionism of young people.

"I already worry about this generation's resilience and their coping mechanisms," Newcomer said.

He reported that faculty members have many other obligations and expectations to deal with, so they can't give students as much time and energy as they'd like.

His main concern is that the younger generation sees college as a time to prepare for a specific career rather than a time to simply become an educated and enlightened individual. As a result, students feel the need to plan out every detail of their lives after graduation — their job, the city they'll live in, if and when they're going to start a family — and thus feel high levels of anxiety as they attempt to control the uncontrollable.

Students have falsely been led to believe that they need to be in control of every aspect of their lives, as if it's the key to happiness and survival in the 21st century. They believe that college will determine their entire future and simultaneously hope to plan out everything their future holds. This is a dangerous combination.

Furthermore, multiple faculty members expressed concern that universities are trying to become more like trade schools. Rather than seeking to open students up to many options and possibilities after graduating, universities are increasingly trying to prepare students for a single type of career by exposing them to a narrowly focused education — appealing to students' need for security and feeding into their anxiety.

Even among American children ages 9 to 17, anxiety levels are so high that a typical high school student in the 21st century is more anxious than a typical psychiatric patient in the 1950s. There are many interconnected causes behind mass anxiety, and a lot of focus is given to how it affects students, but something often overlooked is the impact of this new phenomenon on professors, advisers and academic institutions as a whole.

"Faculty are actually concerned about the same things students are concerned about," Associate Dean of the Honors College Phil Frana said.

All of the geopolitical and environmental problems that play a role in the development of anxiety among young people also take a toll on university instructors hoping to equip them with the abilities needed to solve those problems.

"We did not experience what these students are experiencing when we were in college," Dean of the Honors College and physics professor Bradley Newcomer said.

However, while recognizing that things have grown more difficult and colleges have become more competitive, it's also important



The problem with this is obvious. Turning college majors into career preparation programs boxes students into specific careers early and further emphasizes the importance of choosing the right major. This deceives already anxious and overly controlling students into thinking they can plan out every aspect of their life while also failing to open students up to new opportunities, possibly hindering their success after college.

This leaves educators and universities in a precarious position. Jared Diener, an academic advisor and JMU faculty member, expressed that college isn't a requirement for everyone and isn't supposed to be the same as trade school. Those who go to college should go with the intention of broadening their minds rather than setting out on a single path.

The many generational, cultural, economic, geopolitical, technological and environmental changes of the past few decades have resulted in students who are extremely anxious and self-conscious, alongside professors who are stressed and worried about their

students. This tenseness, anxiety and strong desire to control one's fate in a turbulent world has slowly begun to erode principles and values such as intellectual and spiritual curiosity, the interdisciplinary exchange of ideas, freedom of thought, civic discourse and the endless pursuit of knowledge — the principles that universities are built to protect.

All these beautiful concepts have been replaced by nonstop career preparation, an overemphasis on grades, the discouragement of creative ideas and an unrelenting fear of the future among students.

If the university is to survive in the 21st century, students, faculty and donors must rediscover what a university is meant to be: a place of endless exploration rather than one of careful preparation. This is what gives the university a special place in society, what makes it unique as an institution and what makes it about more than just learning a trade and finding a job.

Sophia Cabana is a junior history major. Contact Sophia at cabanasl@dukes.jmu.edu.

'Students, faculty and donors must rediscover what a university is meant to be: a place of endless exploration rather than one of careful preparation.'

Sophia Cabana



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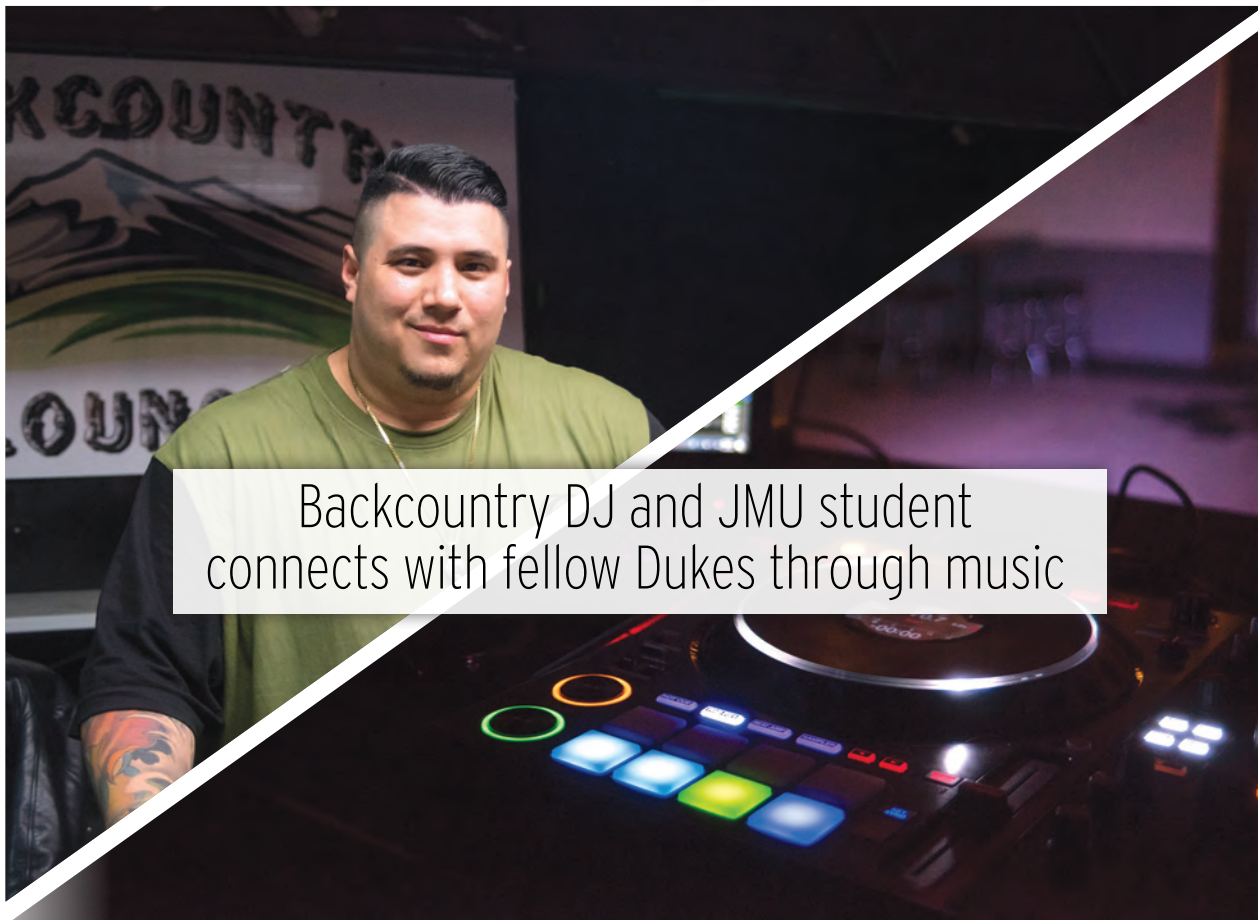
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Keepin'



Backcountry DJ and JMU student connects with fellow Dukes through music

PHOTOS BY TRISTAN LOREI / THE BREEZE

the energy

By **TRISTAN LOREI**
contributing writer

As he carries his equipment to the stage, Zach Taylor prepares for another busy night. Backcountry Restaurant & Lounge is empty right now with soft music playing through the speakers — a contrast to the 600-700 people expected to fill the lounge in a few hours.

For Taylor, a sophomore finance major, his interest in DJing started in Tampa Bay, Florida, when he was 18 and started going to nightclubs. Later, after moving to Hollywood, California, he went to the Electric Daisy Carnival in Las Vegas and saw Swedish House Mafia perform.

"I saw the crowd going crazy, and I was like, 'I want to DJ one day,'" Taylor said. "It was the energy of seeing all these people dancing and having a good time and seeing that the DJ was controlling the crowd and setting the tone. To me, that was the coolest thing in the world."

While working as a bartender in California, Taylor decided to enroll in Dubspot, an electronic music production and DJ school. He took a foundations course and bought his first DJ controller: a Native Instruments Traktor Kontrol S2. From there, he started playing anywhere he could.

Taylor booked his first gig in 2015 at Firefly, a restaurant and bar in Studio City, California. It was a small venue, so he was set up on a keyboard stand in the dining area next to the restaurant's register. He played a couple of shows there and then got booked for its New Year's Eve party. At the beginning, it was hard to build a name for himself.

"I played at King King, which is like this old-school nightclub right on Hollywood Boulevard ... That was a dubstep [club] and I played in front of like four people because I was the opener," Taylor said. "I think there was one time where I was at a place in Hollywood and I opened at 8 p.m. and there was no one in the club; it was empty."

After a while, Taylor decided he wanted to go to school to get a degree in finance. With his rent in California being expensive, he knew he couldn't afford to study there. His father had recently bought property in New Market, Virginia, and offered for him to stay there while he studied. When Taylor found JMU and liked its program, he decided to enroll.

To support himself while going to school, Taylor got a job at Outback Steakhouse. While working there, he DJed for coworkers' small house parties. He soon found out that Ruby's Lounge didn't have a DJ on Fridays

or Saturdays, and he offered to do it for just a \$2 cover charge. He began building up his reputation — working at Ruby's, the Artful Dodger, and The Golden Pony — and soon received a call offering him a job at Backcountry.

Since working at Backcountry, Taylor has been offered a slot at ShamrockFest this year in Washington, D.C. He's hoping that through this opportunity, he'll be able to expand out of Harrisonburg as well as get more gigs in the area.

As a transfer student, Taylor's DJing job helps him interact and connect with fellow Dukes. He had some difficulty right away, but through Backcountry, he's met some other local DJs — who are also Dukes — and built friendships with them. Kenneth Coppola, one of those local DJs and a JMU employee, regularly works with Taylor. Coppola will often fill in for Taylor if he can't perform.

"Whenever he calls, I show," Coppola said. "In the beginning of fall semester, he started working at the Artful Dodger, where I DJed [and] we became the resident DJs. We helped each other with promotions, went back to back, pretty much DJed together and essentially became best friends after that."

His job at Backcountry has not only been

beneficial to him, but the owner and staff as well. They're grateful he's working there and they say they've seen a positive change since he's started.

"Zach has been great," Leah Kraybill, one of the bar's waitresses, said. "He's brought a new energy to Backcountry since he started a month and a half ago, and we are very happy to have him here."

Taylor is still pursuing a degree in finance with a minor in computer information systems and hopes to receive a job in the field. While only seeing it as a side project right now, Taylor wants to continue performing and producing music as much as he can.

"The energy and the vibe can change completely depending on the song you're playing and to me, learning how to manipulate those sounds or use those to enjoy that energy is why I keep coming back," Taylor said. "It's addicting to me, especially when everyone's dancing and having a good time. That energy is what keeps me coming back."

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Who you gonna call?

JMU Ghost Hunters club investigates paranormal activity in Virginia



One of the club's overnight excursions this past semester included the Exchange Hotel Civil War Medical Museum, pictured above.

COURTESY OF LIZ TODD

By CARLEY WELCH
contributing writer

Kevin Struder, a sophomore modern foreign languages major, said he had an exhilarating paranormal experience while on a Ghost Hunters investigation at the Exchange Hotel Civil War Medical Museum in Gordonsville, Virginia. Struder and senior chemistry major Liz Todd were in a room where a man who didn't like women in his presence had died. Struder asked the spirit if he'd be more willing to talk if Todd weren't in the room.

"Get out!" it said.

Struder is vice president of the Ghost Hunters club. This was one of Struder's more frightening experiences while he's been in the club, which he said was chilling yet exciting due to finally having evidence of interacting with spirits.

The club officially started in 2014, when JMU alumnus Thomas Harbour ('16) and a few of his friends got together to investigate alleged paranormal spots in Virginia, such as Virginia Beach, Gordonsville and Harrisonburg. Since then, the club has grown to more than 10 members.

The club goes on three investigations per semester. During these excursions, the club sits in a circle and begins with an Electronic Voice Phenomenon session. They record sounds and questions they ask on their

phones in hopes of receiving a response from spirits.

Sometimes, they try to get the spirits to interact with them by using different instruments, such as a screw light or a ball.

"We will ask questions to any spirits that are there like, 'What was your name?' 'What did you do?' 'Why are you still here?'" Todd said.

Todd is the president of the Ghost Hunters club, yet she's a skeptic, meaning she doesn't believe in ghosts. However, Struder is a believer, causing an interesting scenario in the club's leadership.

"I am the president for debunking purposes," Todd said. "My vice president believes in ghosts and I don't, so we have that dynamic going back and forth. We will listen to audio from an investigation and he will be like, 'Oh that's a ghost!' and I'm like, 'No, that's the wind.' It can get kind of intense between us."

Even though Todd doesn't believe in ghosts, she enjoys going on these adventures because of the historical significance of the destinations. Todd attempts to come up with logical explanations to keep the others calm when something spooky happens.

"Most people like to have me as president because I am a calming presence since I don't believe in [ghosts]," Todd said. "It makes sense in a way, because if you have someone

who is a really firm believer, then it is possible that they could be too afraid or not a good leader just because of their beliefs."

Rebecca Wood, the faculty adviser for the Ghost Hunters club, also believes in ghosts and is fascinated by the paranormal world. When she received a call asking to be an adviser, she was thrilled. For Wood, it's the open-mindedness and constant enthusiasm of the members that she loves most.

"It's different, like when I tell people I'm the adviser for the Ghost Hunters club they say, 'Really, that's a club?' It is something you just don't hear about," Wood said.

Struder and Todd can agree that the Ghost Hunters club brings diversity to JMU while also bringing people who share a common bond together. They said it's made their college experience more interesting and inclusive in a non-traditional sense.

"It is important to meet like-minded people and meet new friends," Struder said. "You are not alone in what you like to do. I think [this club] brings diversity to the campus and it makes the campus look more welcoming because it appeals to different people's interests."

CONTACT Carley Welch at welchcw@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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Nude models gain confidence through drawing classes

By **JAMIE GRAEFF**
contributing writer

For Tori Mendoza, it all started with a “now hiring” email for nude models.

The School of Art, Design and Art History offers \$12 an hour to anyone interested in posing nude for JMU’s drawing courses. Models are given 10 time slots between Monday and Thursday to choose from, which they can pick up at their leisure.

After a back-and-forth discussion with her roommates, Mendoza’s interest and curiosity was sparked. Mendoza decided to put out an Instagram poll, asking her followers if nude modeling was something she should partake in. The majority of voters told her yes.

“It took two weeks to really convince myself,” Mendoza said. “One of my friends who’s taken the class before told me that old men come in all the time to model. So, I figured if an old man could do it, I could do it.”

The School of Art, Design and Art History accepted her application within a week of submission. Mendoza, filled with nerves, had her roommate walk her to the third floor double doors of the Duke Hall art studio for her first session. She navigated her way through the circle of easels and wooden stools as she headed to a white wooden platform in the center of the room.

“Whenever you’re ready,” figure drawing professor Kenneth Szmagaj said.

Mendoza pulled at the string of her robe and let it slide off her shoulders as she held a pose that “demonstrated movement.” She locked her eyes on a section of the wall as she reminded herself to remain as still as possible for the next 45 minutes.

“When they take their robe off, they basically just become another object,” senior architectural design major and artist Lisa Smith said. “It really isn’t too different from drawing a flower.”

Smith, who’s taken Drawing I and II, noted how artists are challenged to visually analyze shadow and light versus shape and form when drawing nude figures. They must look at the different values presented in front of them, consider how light reflects off the figure and try their best to replicate what they observe.

The hardest part about drawing nude models is learning how to effectively draw the figure when they’re twisted, according to Smith. If artists practice drawing the light and dark areas compellingly, they’ll be able to draw the shape they’re seeing.

Szmagaj says there’s a particular challenge in drawing nude figures, but it’s part of the general practice of training yourself as an artist to see critically. It presents more complex problems, gives you more practice

of seeing and makes you more sensitive to form.

“They’re trying to draw the human form, and I’m really happy I get to be a part of it,” Mendoza said. “Anyone who has negative criticism can walk away.”

Szmagaj often challenges his students’ critical thinking by having them run through peculiar exercises, such as drawing with their eyes closed, drawing with three pencils or drawing with their non-dominant hand. He’ll also give “absurd suggestions,” like telling students to crumple up their work before straightening it back out to continue drawing or to walk around the room and draw on other students’ drawings.

When time runs out and students are told to put down their pencils, Szmagaj says that many of the models enjoy walking around the classroom and checking out the artists’ renditions of their bodies.

“The models take a certain element of participation,” Szmagaj said. “Frequently, they’ll photograph the drawings or ask a student if they can take the drawing.”

When Mendoza first saw drawings of herself, she was surprised to see how other people interpreted her figure. She admitted that she hadn’t noticed all the little things about herself that aren’t necessarily “perfect,” but after seeing herself drawn over and over again, she now carries a greater

understanding and appreciation of her body.

“I have this mole on my face that I’ve never really cared for,” Mendoza said. “But after seeing it drawn so many times, I actually grew to love it. Now when I look at drawings where it’s missing, I’m like, ‘They didn’t even put my mole! And my head isn’t shaped like that!’”

It’s the sweet smiles on the artist’s faces when Mendoza accidentally locks eyes with them that eases her nerves. She says introductory classes are typically more quiet, but she’ll frequent conversation with the upper level classes who are habitually more relaxed.

“I’ve never had an instance when an artist makes me feel uncomfortable, ever,” Mendoza said.

Mendoza has completed over 10 sessions and says there’s an undeniable sense of fulfillment she receives from standing in nude and observing each rendering of her body. For her, it’s about confidence. It’s a chance to embrace her purest form for 45 minutes.

“It is empowering to look at your body and be like, ‘Yeah, that’s me. I am human. I am very normal,’” Mendoza said.

CONTACT Jamie Graeff at graeffje@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.

Once the class is over, models often walk around and check out the artists’ renditions of their bodies.

BJ BECKWITH / THE BREEZE



And the Grammy goes to...

Breeze editors predict the winners



THE BREEZE
PICKS OF THE WEEK

Editor's record	Sabrina Moreno Culture Editor	Abby Church Culture Editor	Katelyn Waltemyer News Editor	Graham Schiltz Copy Editor	Chase Downey Photo Editor	Alexa Thompson Art Director
Record of the Year	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
Album of the Year	"This is America" Childish Gambino	"This is America" Childish Gambino	"This is America" Childish Gambino	"God's Plan" Drake	"All the Stars" Kendrick Lamar & SZA	"This is America" Childish Gambino
Song of the Year	"Scorpion" Drake	"Invasion of Privacy" Cardi B	"Dirty Computer" Janelle Monáe	Black Panther Soundtrack Various Artists	Black Panther Soundtrack Various Artists	Black Panther Soundtrack Various Artists
Best New Artist	"Shallow" Lady Gaga & Bradley Cooper	"In My Blood" Shawn Mendes	"All the Stars" Kendrick Lamar & SZA	"God's Plan" Drake	"God's Plan" Drake	"All the Stars" Kendrick Lamar & SZA
	H.E.R.	Jorja Smith	Dua Lipa	Dua Lipa	Dua Lipa	Dua Lipa

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BREEZE FILE PHOTO

The 'embodiment' of JMU lacrosse

Klaes-Bawcombe has spent nearly 20 years molding the Dukes' legacy

By **BLAKE PACE**
The Breeze

As a former player, assistant coach and the current head coach of JMU lacrosse, Shelley Klaes-Bawcombe is entering her 18th season donning the purple and gold after the most monumental year in program history — winning the 2018 NCAA National Championship.

In the past 17 years, she's amassed a 193-103 career record, 75 conference wins and eight NCAA tournament appearances. More importantly, she's instilled a culture built around familial values, school pride and the notion of becoming as good of athletes as human beings — and has taken the lacrosse program to new heights.

"I know we're celebrating the 50 years of JMU lacrosse and I think that's Shelley," JMU alumna Casey Ancarrow ('12) said. "Throughout that time, and all that she's done, I think she's the embodiment of everything that the program has built toward winning."

Ancarrow, a National Player of the Year nominee in her redshirt senior season in 2013, racked up 205 career points on 148 goals and 57 assists. Like Klaes-Bawcombe, Ancarrow wound up as a coach shortly after her time with the Dukes, landing at the University of Michigan. She was appreciative of the effort and time her former coach put into the team but didn't fully understand how much effort went into coaching until she was in the same shoes.

"The amount of time that goes into everything, it's like you can't even focus on lacrosse half the time because of all the outside stuff that's going on in terms of dealing with a team and all that," Ancarrow said. "I think that JMU wouldn't be what JMU is and I wouldn't have had the great college experience that I had without Shelley doing all that she did and continues to do, obviously, for the program."

A player's coach, Klaes-Bawcombe has intimate connections with every athlete who

steps through the door. During practices and game days, she's the loudest on the field and brings a fiery passion that spreads throughout the organization.

JMU Hall-of-Fame athlete and All-American Megan Clark ('99) had the pleasure of playing with the Dukes' leader for two seasons before being coached by her when Klaes-Bawcombe became an assistant with JMU. On the field, she brought that same energy and loving connection to the field.

"She was so energetic, so fun," Clark said. "Practice with her, you know, you worked hard but you laughed, and you just had a great time. She brought so much energy and just goofiness to the field, which we all loved and needed. She's always encouraging and, goodness, that girl has worked her butt off."

That hard work includes overcoming some unsuccessful seasons to begin her career as the head coach of JMU lacrosse. After a successful debut season in 2007, the Dukes went just 12-20 (4-10 CAA) the next two years.

She's had six seasons in which her team has finished the year nationally unranked, but has also rebounded to rattle off five straight appearances in the CAA championship game, three CAA titles in the last four years and four consecutive trips to the NCAA tournament.

It's never been easy, but her persistence to stay the course and bring JMU lacrosse to national recognition has been fueled by her double Duke-ness; no one cares more about James Madison than an alumnus.

"Them putting her in that spot, she had some tough years there I know, but she never, ever laid over and just gave up," Clark said. "That woman has fought and believed and worked her butt off to get them to where they are. Any time you can have an alumni coaching your program, it's just a different feel. She's a game changer."

One of her ways of transitioning that pride to her teams is through the constant tough scheduling in the Dukes' non-conference

schedule. When deciding whom to play before CAA competition, teams tend to go in one of two directions: schedule easier opponents to boost morale and get an early start in the win column, or schedule the best of the best to build an understanding and mentally tough team from Day One. Klaes-Bawcombe sides with the latter.

"We've done well against a highly competitive schedule," Klaes-Bawcombe said. "We're looking for two avenues to the NCAA Championship. We need a second option through the at-large. We can't be afraid of losing and to not fear failure."

With decades of JMU pride in her heart, Klaes-Bawcombe has turned the Dukes into one of the more nationally recognized programs in women's lacrosse. As this year's team sets off to defend its first-ever national title, Klaes-Bawcombe is ready to turn JMU into not only a consistent contender for national fame, but also a well-known commodity in the local community.

"Opportunities like this, I haven't had them before," Klaes-Bawcombe said. "It's my job to be an ambassador of the sport and I'm excited to share my knowledge and passion with the Harrisonburg community."

With just days until the Dukes face No. 2 UNC to kick off the 2019 season, JMU looks to put out another year as one of the best teams in the nation. Picked as the No. 4 team by both major lacrosse polls, they'll be playing with the same embodiment that their head coach carried through her days on the grass to her time on the sidelines — carrying the rich history that nearly 20 years has instilled.

CONTACT Blake Pace at breezesports@gmail.com. For more lacrosse coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.



PHOTOS BY TREVOR COCKBURN / THE BREEZE

Klaes-Bawcombe has the most wins in JMU lacrosse history.

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There's no place like home

Women's basketball thrives at home, extends win streak to 23 games



PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA LINCZYC (TOP) & TRISTAN LOREI / THE BREEZE

Women's basketball hasn't lost at the Convocation Center since Dec. 3, 2017, when it fell to Florida State.

By **JAMES FARIS**
The Breeze

Around three and a half minutes before lobbing light-hearted insults as the visiting starting lineup is announced, the JMU pep band begins its enthusiastic rendition of the fan-favorite fight song, "Start Wearing Purple." When this happens, it feels like the Dukes can't lose.

JMU women's basketball is undefeated (10-0) at home this season with a 23-game home winning streak that's the third-longest in program history and the fifth-longest active streak in the nation, according to WHSV TV. The Dukes haven't lost at the Convocation Center since Dec. 3, 2017, against then-No. 13 Florida State.

"I think it's one of the best places to play women's basketball in the country because of that crowd," head coach Sean O'Regan said. "The band starts it all and the crowd is there. I think you're feeling more relevant, feeling like all that hard work you're doing is paying off. It gives you that pep in your step, you play with a little bit more pride."

Students and younger JMU fans may not fully realize the history of the Convo — one of the nation's most historic venues for women's college basketball. Since its opening in 1982, the Dukes have won nine CAA tournament titles and made the NCAA tournament 12 times.

"Hearing the way the crowd reacts any time you have momentum going or you're scoring ... it's electric," junior guard Lexie Barrier said. "We take a lot of pride in playing at home."

Whether the band, crowd or comforts of a familiar routine is the main factor, the numbers suggest JMU plays significantly better at home. The Dukes have outscored opponents by an astounding 20.7 points per game at home this season compared to 13.7 away from Harrisonburg. O'Regan's team hasn't been as dominant on the road — shown by a 6-4 record — and has fallen to Hampton, No. 7 Maryland, Wake Forest and CAA foe UNCW.

Defense requires extra effort and focus, and the numbers suggest that JMU is significantly better defensively playing in front of its home crowd. The Dukes allow 47.9 points per game at home and 54.9 on the road.

"We practice here all the time, we don't have a separate facility like most teams do," junior guard Kamiah Smalls said. "You're used to seeing the purple on the walls, the band behind the backboard, you're used to the surroundings ... It keeps us comfortable."

JMU's offensive stats are nearly identical at home and on the road in terms of points per game, assists per game, shooting percentage and 3-point percentage. The Dukes turn the ball

over about two more times per game on the road — a possible by-product of playing in hostile environments.

It's difficult to go on the road and win against quality opponents in any sport, but the palpable energy JMU plays with on defense at home makes stealing a game from the Dukes in the Convo unrealistic for nearly every team in the conference. Northeastern played with confidence at the top of the CAA standings before it arrived in Harrisonburg for a Jan. 13 meeting with JMU. The Huskies went home with a 35-point loss, 84-49.

"This place is tough to play [in for opponents]," O'Regan said. "We had a couple of recruits [for the Elon game Jan. 27] who were like, 'Man, this place is awesome, this atmosphere is awesome, that band is awesome.'"

There's something tangibly different about the atmosphere when JMU women's basketball takes the court. This season, JMU's average home attendance is 2,170 — more than double the average mark of seven of the nine competing CAA teams. Delaware has the second-best attendance in the conference at 1,233.

"You don't see a lot of support coming from women's basketball teams," redshirt junior center Kayla Cooper Williams said. "To have that many fans at our games, it really gives us a lot of momentum."

Unlike other CAA schools, women's basketball draws about as many fans as men's basketball at JMU. Whether due to its recent success — the Dukes have won three of the past five conference titles — or the history surrounding the fourth-winningest program in NCAA women's basketball history, JMU women's basketball has an unmatched culture and fanbase in the CAA.

JMU survived a tough test from Towson (12-8, 6-3 CAA) on Sunday and overcame a nine-point fourth quarter deficit to win by 12 in overtime. With under three minutes to go, the Tigers were up six with the chance to extend their lead at the free-throw line. After both foul shots were missed, JMU forced 12 missed shots on 13 attempts and four turnovers to end the game on a 22-4 run.

The Dukes aren't just looking to stay alive at home — they're looking to dominate and get back to 2015-16 form. In that final year under former head coach Kenny Brooks, JMU accomplished two incredible feats: It went undefeated at home (14-0) and won the CAA tournament. Now under O'Regan, the Dukes don't just have the chance to make history, they have the chance to repeat it.

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



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Thursday, February 7, 2019

SWIM & DIVE

Gross earns CAA weekly honors



Sophomore Emily Gross was named this week's Colonial Athletic Association Women's Diver of the Week, announced Tuesday afternoon. Over the weekend at the JMU Diving Invitational, Gross swept through the 1-meter and 3-meter times against Northeastern, Towson and George Mason. Gross recorded a 280.95 in the preliminaries before taking first in the finals with a score of 275.25 and tied for first with teammate Hope Byrum with a career-high score of 308.85 in the 3-meter dive. This was Gross' first CAA weekly honor this year.

TRACK & FIELD

Stamm qualifies for ECACs in 400 m



Just a week after setting a JMU record in the 500-meter run, track and field freshman runner Anoush Stamm qualified for the ECAC Championships in the 400-meter run. Her time of 56.18 seconds placed her in second at the Sykes-Sabock Challenge Cup last weekend as she became the sixth individual to qualify for postseason contention.

LACROSSE

Dukes begin title-defending year vs. No. 2 UNC



One year removed from its national championship victory, JMU lacrosse begins its 2018 season in a top-five battle with UNC. The Dukes, who were ranked as the No. 4 team in the nation by both the IWLCA Division I Coaches Poll and the Inside Lacrosse Women DI Media Poll, will take on the No. 2 Tar Heels in a rematch of last year's season opener — a bout that saw JMU come out on top in double overtime, 15-14. Senior Hanna Haven (pictured) is the returning leading scorer for the Dukes.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JMU ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

SCOREBOARD

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

(16-4, 8-1 CAA)

LATEST SCORE

Win vs. Towson 71-59 (OT)

NEXT GAME

Friday at Northeastern

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Devon Merritt — 16 points, 5 rebounds

MEN'S BASKETBALL

(10-14, 3-8 CAA)

LATEST SCORE

Win at UNC Wilmington 104-95

NEXT GAME

Saturday at Towson

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Stuckey Mosley — 24.5 ppg, 50% from three

TRACK & FIELD

(9 ECAC QUALIFIERS)

LATEST MEET

Fourth place at Sykes-Sabock Challenge

NEXT MEET

VMI Winter Relays/D.H. Valentine Invite

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Alexys Taylor — First place in 60 m dash (7.51)

SWIM & DIVE

(9-2-1, 4-0 CAA)

LATEST INVITATIONAL

VT Invitational/JMU Diving Invitational

NEXT MEET

Feb. 20 at CAA Championships

SWIMMER OF THE WEEK

Emily Gross — First place in 1 and 3 m dives

WOMEN'S TENNIS

(3-1, 0-0 CAA)

LATEST SCORE

Win at Charlotte, 5-2

NEXT MEET

Friday at Miami (OH)

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Abby Amos — 6-2, 2-6, 6-2 win vs. Charlotte

MEN'S TENNIS

(4-1, 0-0 CAA)

LATEST SCORE

Win vs. Mount St. Mary's, 7-0

NEXT MEET

Friday at Virginia Tech

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Alvaro Arce — 2-6, 6-1, 6-3 win vs. W&L



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Got guards?

JMU women's basketball's stable of guards leads Dukes in dominant 2019 season



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Reynolds

Benitez

Barrier

Smalls

By **BRANDON ELLIS**
The Breeze

JMU women's basketball has started off in tremendous fashion, as the Dukes sit atop the CAA at 8-1 and 16-4 overall with nine wins by 20 or more points. They've established a balanced attack with a top-3 scoring offense in the CAA and six major defensive rankings inside the top 15 in the country — including the No. 4 scoring defense (51.4 PPG) and the No. 3 field-goal percentage defense (32.1).

Propelling that success on both ends of the court is a stable of guards that head coach Sean O'Regan has at his disposal. Seasoned vets such as senior Logan Reynolds and juniors Kamiah Smalls and Lexie Barrier have flourished in his system the last several years, while rising stars in redshirt junior guard Jackie Benitez and freshman Maddie Green have provided depth behind them, a necessary spark off the bench and the ability to throw out a variety of lineups.

"We can go big, we can go small," O'Regan said. "If we want to go Smalls at the one, Jackie two, Lexie three and the two bigs that's super big. I just like the options and depth, we can go so many different ways. What I like this year [if we get into] foul trouble, I got options."

The different variety of guards also plays a role into the options O'Regan can employ.

Reynolds, for example, is like a coach on the court with her high basketball IQ and understanding of the system.

Currently second in the nation in assist-turnover ratio (3.68), Reynolds has also played a pivotal role in the development of Green's game — getting her accustomed to the offensive system and how to operate the point guard position.

"She's taught me that it's not just about me," Green said. "It's about making your teammates better, look for my shot, but the best thing I can do is to make my teammates better and be there for my teammates and be a good leader because that's what they're going to need."

Reynolds has implemented things that she learned from former JMU guard Angela Mickens to teach Green this season. Reynolds values what she learned from Mickens during her freshman year in Harrisonburg.

"I know what it's like to be a freshman, a point guard on a successful team, being behind a senior and upperclassman," Reynolds said. "What I want Maddie to do is to be a sponge, that's what I basically expressed the most to her, being a sponge is the best way to absorb everything, not only from a point guard perspective, but a leadership perspective."

Reynolds wasn't always the manager from the court and has seen her game flip entirely

since moving from high school to college. It wasn't out of a desire to change, rather a thorough understanding of the best way to execute her game at the next level.

"Coming from high school, I scored almost 6,000 points," Reynolds said. "It was a different approach I had in college. I knew I wasn't going to be the best scorer, wasn't going to be the tallest or strongest ... I had to understand my role to the context of the team and what coach O asked of me. I've identified my role, I know what I'm good at, I've harped on that consistently and it's worked out for me in the long run."

While Reynolds and Green have the pass-first approach to the game, the likes of Kamiah Smalls have the mentality of getting buckets. Just as Reynolds learned her approach from Mickens and Green from Reynolds, Smalls was taught her relentless mindset by former guard and JMU great Precious Hall.

"[You need] to have a dog mentality," Smalls said. "That was the number one thing I saw in her eyes every time we stepped between those lines ... to stay confident in what I'm doing, who I am and my role on the team."

Smalls has picked up her game right where Hall left hers off, establishing herself as the go-to scorer for the Dukes. The Philly-native is averaging 18.2 points per game this season

— 58th in the nation — while knocking down 41.3 percent of shots from beyond the arc — 36th in the country. Hall, in her own junior season, averaged 20.8 points per game and connected on 36 percent of her shots from deep. Hall also took home CAA Player of the Year honors.

With Smalls leading the way in scoring and Reynolds and Green facilitating, Barrier and Benitez have grown into great secondary scoring options for the Dukes — averaging 10.9 and 10.8 points per game, respectively.

As complements to their leading scorer, JMU has found efficient scorers who can provide a steady rhythm for scoring production outside of Smalls. With all five humming at the same time, the Dukes have a formidable force in the backcourt that can wreak havoc on opponents.

"It's basically the biggest threat of the team," Smalls said. "Logan has it, she's a senior and she's been leading us for three years now, when Maddie catches on to her role and the things that she can bring to the team and know the difference between her and Logan, I feel that will be the biggest threat on our team."

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CHASE DOWNEY / THE BREEZE

Cignetti signed seven defensive and six offensive players.

JMU football inks 13 for 2019, Cignetti's first recruiting class set

By **BLAKE PACE**
The Breeze

With National Signing Day officially in the books, JMU football has added five recruits to the list of eight early signees for the incoming class of 2019. Despite working on a crunch schedule after being hired just five days before the early signing period, head coach Curt Cignetti both maintained a majority of commits from the previous regime and added a few new prospects.

"Really excited about this class, our first class," Cignetti said. "I'd like to start off by thanking our staff: Our assistant coaches, who did a great job, our players, who did a tremendous job at representing our program during the recruiting weekends and everyone involved in the JMU community."

Eight recruits — tight end Hunter Bullock, cornerback Dorian Davis, running backs Austin Douglas and CJ Jackson, defensive lineman Sean Johns, linebacker Taurus Jones, offensive lineman Tanner Morris and safety Jordan White — signed back in December. Five — linebacker Julio Ayamel, wide receiver Kevin Curry Jr., defensive linemen Jalen Green and Carlo Jones and running back Latrelle Palmer — signed in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

Cignetti's main responsibility after being hired early in the offseason was retaining the previous regime's recruits. After hitting the ground running, all but a few high school athletes were still on board.

"We had pre-existing relationships with a lot of these players, we had recruited them [at Elon] last spring, in the fall and when there was a change here," Cignetti said. "We were very active in the recruiting process with a lot of them and I think those relationships really benefited us."

In terms of positional need, Cignetti brought in three defensive linemen and running backs each. While both positions are a huge need for his coaching philosophy of winning through running the ball and defending the run, he also noted the recent and future losses of the team.

JMU graduated three running backs after the 2018 season in Cardon Johnson, Trai Sharp and Marcus Marshall. At the end of next season, the Dukes are expected to lose defensive linemen Ron'Dell Carter, Paris Black, Matt Terrell and John Daka to graduation. Bringing those individuals in now has a chance to get these younger guys learning from the bundle of seasoned vets.

"We needed to bring in some people that could not only compete this fall, but also be

ready to step in in the future," Cignetti said. "We're excited about that group and their potential to make an impact."

While the Dukes added athletes from six different states, a majority of their prospects came from Virginia (four), Maryland (four) and North Carolina (two). Three recruits from Maryland — Ayamel, Green and Palmer — all come from Our Lady of Good Counsel high school and will have the chance to continue their careers together in Harrisonburg. Good Counsel, a member of the well-respected Washington Catholic Athletic Conference, has several ties with some of the new assistant coaches and could be viewed as a prospect hive for James Madison football.

"That league they play in up there is like the SEC of high school football," Cignetti said. "Good Counsel has a good reputation, all three of those guys are quality players. I think they all have the potential to make an impact next fall and hopefully that's a pipeline, not only in that school but in that conference."

Just as it was important to bring in talented athletes, Cignetti was focused on bringing in well-rounded individuals. Almost all his signees were honor roll students or scholar athletes, while some participated in organizations such as National Honors Society.

Most recruits will have to wait it out until this summer before beginning summer classes and practices, but two have gotten an early start on their collegiate career. Both Davis and Bullock have already begun schooling as mid-year enrollees at the university, and have so far received positive feedback in both the classroom and the weight room.

"We think all these guys are top-notch guys," Cignetti said. "There's a lot of intangible things that go into development to your fullest potential ... When we're recruiting people, I want to look at that transcript. I want to see what he did in ninth, 10th, 11th and 12th grade. I want to see those absences ... because I think those are telling signs in terms of what you're getting and the habits that that prospect may have."

Now with the coaching staff in place and the recruiting class of 2019 on board, JMU will work in the gym until spring ball begins March 14, less than a month before its annual spring football game on April 13. It'll be the first public look at this new regime, with an opportunity to see some of its newest recruits in the purple and gold, too.

CONTACT Blake Pace at breezesports@gmail.com. For more football coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.

FOR RELEASE FEBRUARY 6, 2019

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

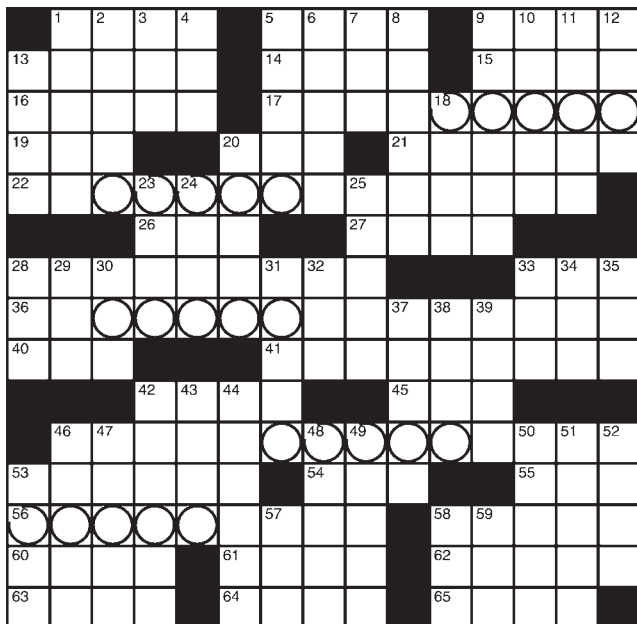
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Area with pews
5 It's saved for a rainy day
9 Monster party
13 Constrain
14 Singer Adams
15 Spanish "this"
16 In first place
17 Does really well, for a weekend golfer
19 Sophs, come Sep.
20 "Who Dat Girl" rapper __ Rida
21 Corkscrew pasta
22 "Next time's for real"
26 Hurry, old-style
27 Leaf-clearing tool
28 Hairy spider
33 It stings
36 Cardiologist
40 Energy unit
41 Looks through, as a keyhole
42 Tennis immortal
45 Spanish "that"
46 Jewish deli meat
53 Learn from A to Z
54 Little newt
55 Bloke
56 "America's Got Talent" judges' concern
58 With 62-Across, handyman's assortment, and a hint to what's in each set of circles
60 Latvian seaport
61 De __: again
62 See 58-Across
63 Cocktail garnish
64 Gets the picture
65 Keep up (with)

DOWN

- 1 '60s jacket style
2 "What __!": "Ick!"
3 By way of
4 See 28-Down
5 Musk's electric car brand
6 Limited in scope, as a committee
7 Grande opening
8 Illinois city that symbolizes mainstream America
9 Lifelong pal
10 Clinton's first Defense secretary
11 Sporty Ford, to devotees
12 Big name in spydom
13 Pilgrimage to Mecca
18 Clock sound
20 Guitar neck features
23 Whaling direction
24 Pub order
25 Copy on a transparent sheet
28 With 4-Down, fairy tale's last words
29 Fizzy prefix
30 Tattered cloth
31 Word with class or case
32 Blues legend John __ Hooker
33 Storage container
34 Approximate fig.
35 WWII arena
37 "___ my case"



By Jerry Edelstein

2/6/19

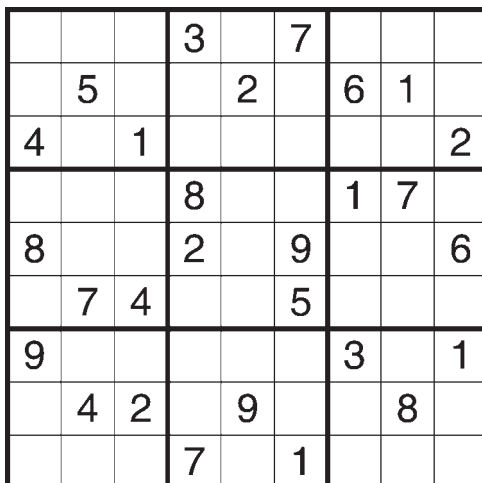
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43 Fox News anchor Smith
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46 Five-time Olympic swimming gold medalist Ledecky
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48 "Pet" irritation
49 High dos
50 Greek
51 Smelling of mold
52 Lithographer James
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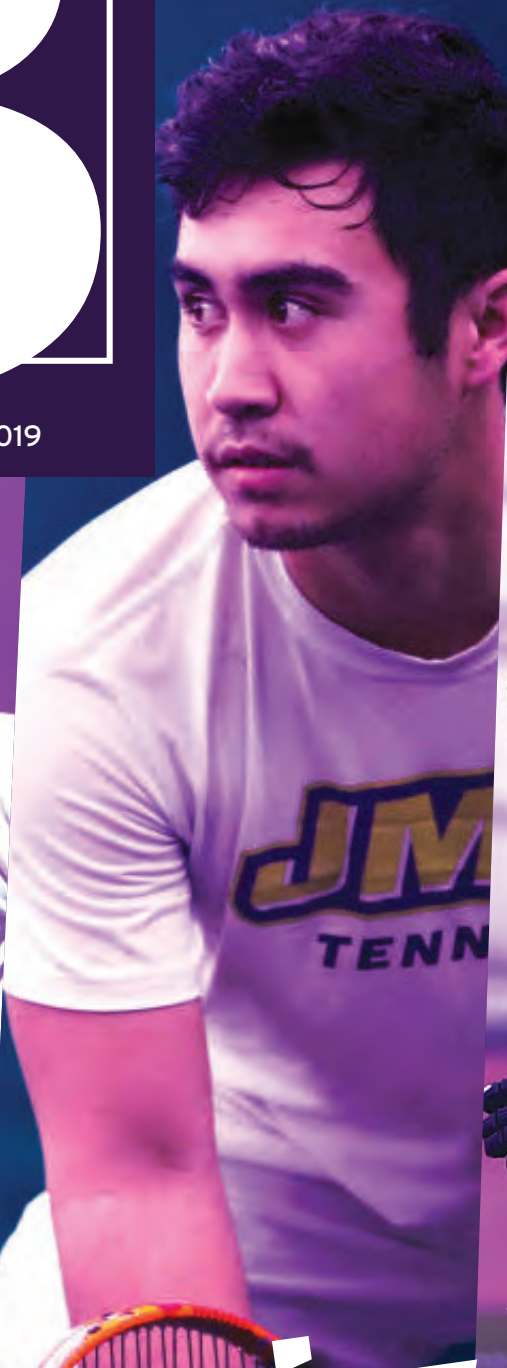
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B

Thursday, February 7, 2019



Unfinished business

Lacrosse defends its title, softball aims for postseason glory as the Dukes' spring sports programs prepare to kick off their seasons



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CONTENTS

4

Lacrosse celebrates 50 years with an NCAA title defense

7

Softball boasts trio of starters who could be among best in the country

8

Emma Petersen plays role of leader for women's tennis

11

Baseball excited about growth of junior pitcher Kevin Kelly

12

2019 spring sports poster

14

Examining men's and women's golf by the numbers

16

Molly Dougherty hopes to help lacrosse replace graduated seniors

19

Softball hopes to make deep NCAA tournament run

20

Men's tennis duo Paul Mendoza and Tate Steinour show tennis is a team sport

23

Anoush Stamm sets track & field record in first meet



PHOTOS ON THE FRONT:

MEGAN GOOD:

BREEZE FILE PHOTO

PAUL MENDOZA:

TREVOR COCKBURN / THE BREEZE

MOLLY DOUGHERTY & KEVIN KELLY

COURTESY OF JMU ATHLETICS



never looked so good

Lacrosse celebrates historic year with championship pedigree built on long-lasting culture

By **BLAKE PACE**
The Breeze

A week after JMU lacrosse's national championship victory, alumna Casey Ancarrow ('12) stopped into a store to drop off her cable box as she prepared to move from Virginia to Maryland. Wearing a JMU shirt, Ancarrow was abruptly stopped by a stranger.

"He was like, 'Oh, JMU, they just won the national championship' and I was really surprised," Ancarrow said. "I was like, 'Yeah, they did!'"

Ancarrow was caught off guard, shocked by the fact that a stranger was familiar with the Dukes' lacrosse program. In her time in the purple and gold, Ancarrow's team won nearly 73 percent of its games and had two trips to the NCAA tournament, yet JMU's reputation was

greatly underappreciated.

"People were like, 'Oh, JMU, is that Division I?' and I remember just being like, 'Oh my gosh, yes it's D-I. We're in the top 10 almost every year,' Ancarrow said. "That was always such a frustrating experience."

This year, JMU lacrosse is celebrating its 50th year of existence, and comes fresh off the heels of its best season ever — going 22-1 and taking down the likes of North Carolina and Boston College on the way to its first-ever national title.

The Dukes, just as Ancarrow pleaded, have been no strangers to all-time great athletes and title-contending teams. But now, with a championship in the bag, James Madison lacrosse is finally starting to garner the respect it's relentlessly and persistently built since 1969: a program surrounded by an infectious culture that's spread throughout the generations of JMU greats.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JMU ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

'It's just that instant purple blood'

The embodiment of JMU is one that's lived throughout the years across campus and extends to students, professors, parents and alumni. While most students are here for their four years before leaving, the relationships they've made along the way stick around forever.

"That's the one thing that I loved about JMU is just the relationships that we've all had and built," JMU lacrosse alumna Megan Clark ('99) said. "Even kids that I didn't even play with but I watched, it's just that instant purple blood. You just kind of have that connection. My teammates, we're all so close, we stay in touch on a regular basis."

While some extend their JMU relationships beyond campus, others

are hit with culture shock. It's not the same experience from school to school, and that's instilled a greater respect for their unique experience.

"I wasn't aware that wasn't normal outside of JMU," Ancarrow said. "When I learned about how other programs were and how that's not necessarily the case with every program, I appreciated it even more."

One weekend out of their season, the Dukes pack their bags in between games and head to Massanutten for a friendly weekend competition, an Olympics of sorts between each class of athletes. Team retreats are common amongst sports teams and are viewed as a great way to build team chemistry, but the Dukes do it a little different than most: They invite their parents.

Yes, the college students that finally get to venture away from home for their first years of adulthood end up right back in a cabin with them for the weekend. Usually, the parents of the senior class will rent a strand of houses and host the team for a refreshing, yet competitive,

family-oriented event.

"It brought all the parents and the players together and we were doing something that was outside of lacrosse," JMU lacrosse alumna Stephanie Finley ('15) said. "The traditions that have been passed on from long before I was in the program are still being passed down, which I think is something really special about the team."

Before the time of JMU lacrosse Olympics, the teams of the late '90s would venture to Massanutten for something a little more strenuous. Side-by-side with their strength coach Greg Warner, the Dukes would hike to the top of the mountain for an exercise off the grass field.

Building strong relationships off the field created the welcoming and understanding vibe that's found itself swarming around the team over the last several decades. Without the importance of remembering that history and tradition, it'd be hard to capture the same type of magic.

For this year's lacrosse team, trying to fully understand and respect the last 50 years of JMU lacrosse can be a daunting task for someone 18 or 19 years old. But given the connectivity through the alumni web and a former player as their head coach, the Dukes have the tradition presented to them on a daily basis.

"I think it's really awesome to know that we are finally really accomplishing what those women 50, now 51 years ago, really wanted," redshirt sophomore goalkeeper Molly Dougherty said. "I think it's our duty as the current players here to carry out that legacy and continue it so that more girls can kind of understand

what JMU is about. You talk to a lot of other girls at a lot of other college programs and you realize that what goes on here isn't normal."

Fortunately for the current players, they're coached by one of the many prominent figures in JMU lacrosse history: Shelley Klaes-Bawcombe. Inducted into the JMU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011 and the Virginia Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 2017, Klaes-Bawcombe was an All-American in 1996 and 1997, appeared in two NCAA title games in 1995 and 1997 and racked up 196 points in 125 goals and 71 assists.

Her main goal: to win games and bring championships back to Harrisonburg. She's been around this program for close to 20 years and knows it takes a conscientious mind to replicate sustainable success.

"The testament of a program is to really consider the past, present and future," Klaes-Bawcombe said. "When you're here you make your mark, you leave your legacy. Play for the people behind you, play for the people in front of you and I think that our team has created this family environment where it's really who we are."

JMU's dedication to respecting



history, maintaining lifelong relationships and finding ways on and off the field to exhibit them stretches from Klaes-Bawcombe to the last athlete on the bench to the famous purple wig of alumna Kristen Gaudian's father. With it has finally come the success and recognition the program deserves, which only suggests that the next 50 years of JMU lacrosse will be even greater than the ones that preceded it.

"I think it's just a perfect setting," senior attacker Hanna Haven said. "We're not done yet. We're back for more."

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Good was a finalist for USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year in 2017.

Just wait till THIS YEAR

After boasting one of the best pitching staffs in the country for more than half a decade, JMU softball enters season with best rotation program has ever seen

By **MATT WEYRICH**
The Breeze

Pitching has always been a strength of JMU softball.

Over the course of the program's 17-year history, the Dukes have finished with a combined sub-3.00 ERA 13 times and had at least one pitcher earn All-CAA honors in 12 different seasons.

Recently, however, JMU has taken its dominance in the circle to another level. The Dukes haven't finished with a team ERA above 2.20 since 2013, a six-year run that's tied with Florida for the longest active streak in the country.

Under head coach Loren LaPorte and her predecessor Mickey Dean, the Dukes have primarily used two pitchers to start a majority of their games. In 2018, those two starters were CAA Player of the Year Odicci Alexander and CAA Rookie of the Year Payton Buresch. Alexander, now a junior, and then-freshman Buresch started all but four of the Dukes' 57 games.

With both Alexander and Buresch back for another run, JMU would have no problem determining who took the ball every other game if it weren't for the return of three-time CAA Pitcher of the Year Megan Good, who feels "100 percent" after missing all of last season while rehabbing from a torn ACL.

Prior to the injury, the redshirt senior out of Mount Sidney, Virginia, had just wrapped up the most prolific season by a pitcher in JMU history. Good set program single-season records for ERA (0.63), wins (38), shutouts (14) and consecutive scoreless innings (70.1, 2017) — among several others.

Now that she's returned to the fold, Good gives the Dukes a plethora of weapons with which to attack opponents from the circle.

"I don't know if there's another staff, maybe Oklahoma and Florida, that have that caliber in the circle," LaPorte said. "We're at the point where they're going to do whatever they need to do [to] win and it's not about how many wins they get. It's how many wins the team gets and they're all on board with that."

LaPorte won't be entering the season with a set rotation, instead determining which starter throws the first pitch prior to each game based on matchups. While she

didn't divulge which starters excelled against certain types of lineups, LaPorte stressed that she wanted to use her arsenal of pitchers to her advantage by keeping them fresh for the postseason.

"We spend a great deal of time in our scouting, so it is going to be matchup-based, but also in the second time [through] the lineup, or the third time when the hitters start getting to them then we have boom, we can throw in another pitcher that compliments," LaPorte said.

Toward the end of the 2018 season, both Alexander and Buresch began to show signs of fatigue and lost a few ticks on their velocity. Alexander set the JMU record for the most appearances in a single season (48) while Buresch tossed 153.2 innings in her first collegiate campaign. Those factors, coupled with the fact that the Dukes don't want to put too much stress on Good's surgically repaired knee, made it an easy decision for LaPorte to keep all three stretched out as starters.

The effects of the long season also prompted the coaching staff to put a greater emphasis on weight-room training, pushing the team to strengthen its legs over the offseason to help better prepare players for a deep playoff run. Buresch, whose "legs gave out" on her toward the end of last season, said the training has her ready for some late-May softball.

"I think I'm a lot stronger this year than I was last year," Buresch said. "I really put in my work in the weight room, which I didn't really buy into last year."

Forget the conference, the Dukes' starters believe they have a chance to be the best rotation in the country. Humble as ever, Good wouldn't go as far to say they're already there. But as the team embarks on the 2019 season with an underdog mentality, they have one main focus: Never count us out.

"I think we have a lot of potential," Good said. "There are some good teams out there, so I think that's a big thing to say, but I think we're just going to take it one day at a time and keep getting stronger with each day and we'll see where it gets us. But I think we're pretty strong as a trio."

CONTACT Matt Weyrich at breezeeditor@gmail.com.



On her way to winning CAA Pitcher of the Year, Odicci Alexander paced the Dukes with 216 strikeouts.



Payton Buresch won CAA Rookie of the Year last season behind a team-best 1.98 ERA in 153.2 innings.



emma petersen

The star senior for JMU women's tennis sets the tone and an example for her younger teammates

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PHOTOS BY TREVOR COCKBURN / THE BREEZE

Petersen was recruited by former head coach James Bryce but decided to stay with the Dukes after he left the program in April 2018.

By MICHAEL TURNER
The Breeze

Senior Emma Petersen's decade-plus tennis journey began with an accident at seven years old: a mix-up sparked by a playdate and her mother, Lisbeth Petersen.

"I was at my friend's house, and my mother was running late to pick me up," Petersen said. "She had a tennis lesson, so she was like, 'Why don't you just come to my tennis lesson and your mom can pick you up from there?' I joined my first tennis lesson and never looked back."

While she began her career as a clumsy seven-year-old with a racket in her hand, she blossomed into a standout player. After her senior year at Miami Palmetto Senior High, she was ranked as a four-star recruit by TennisRecruiting. As a JMU athlete, she's tallied an overall singles record of 54-26, winning 67 percent of her individual matches, and earned CAA Player of the Week five times.

In addition to her on-court excellence, Petersen has excelled academically. The health sciences major made the dean's list in the fall of her freshman year and was named a JMU Athletic

Director Scholar-Athlete as a sophomore.

"I think one of the best qualities that she has is how competitive she is," head coach Shelley Jaudon said. "At the end of the day, she's willing to do whatever it is she has to do to win. I think that's what you see in your best athletes. She's not stubborn in that she just wants to play her game style. She's willing to do whatever. She's willing to go the distance."

Discussions about Petersen as an athlete always evoke the same word: determination. Consistency applying as much pressure as possible, the senior has clawed her way back from many deficits and broken many opponents in three-set matches.

Much of this is due to her toughness. Other than her excellent conditioning and spectacular backhand, Petersen's biggest strength is her dogged perseverance and versatility.

Off the court, Petersen's mental toughness has allowed her to handle the chaotic changes life throws at her. After the departure of former head coach James Bryce, former assistant coach Jon Wegener and every freshman on the team at the conclusion of last season, Petersen could've panicked and left the program as well.

Despite being understandably spooked by

the rapidly changing program and the daunting prospect of not knowing who her coach would be for her final year, Petersen chose to wait things out. In the end, she was rewarded with a coach whose gritty style of play mirrors her own.

"[Emma's] like a wall," Jaudon said. "She's got a great backhand and she's very quick around the court, which goes into her being able to make a lot of balls. She can neutralize well against girls who hit the ball bigger. She can play with variety."

Off the court, Petersen plays a crucial part in the team's culture. In particular, the senior helps pass down the team's long-lasting traditions, like the annual Spring Break CD, in which everyone burns different songs onto the disk, and then the team — while sometimes performing the music — try to guess who chose what song.

"I definitely think she's left a foundation for this team," junior Jona Roka said. "After her and [senior Abby Amos] leave, I'll be the only upperclassman left next year. She left a great legacy behind and now I have to [follow] in her footsteps."

CONTACT Michael Turner at turnermb@dukes.jmu.edu.



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Pitching to success

Junior starter aims to lead JMU baseball back into CAA tournament after Dukes fell short last season

By **JORDAN SIMAL**
The Breeze

Dukes pitcher Kevin Kelly approached the offseason the same as the rest of his teammates — ready to work and stay loose for the 2019 season. But Kelly did more than that.

Kelly caught fire last summer. His personal achievements in the past offseason weren't lost among JMU baseball fans or his teammates, as he produced lofty numbers over his summer campaign.

The junior pitcher spent his summer pitching for the Orleans Firebirds of the Cape Cod Baseball League. During the season, the Springfield, Virginia, native posted a 1.25 ERA, struck out 27 opposing batters and kept them in check with a .184 batting average in 13 games. Kelly even got the nod at starter in the league's All-Star game in July. Reflecting back on his summer with the Firebirds, Kelly noted there were things he learned in the CCBA that he wants to implement at JMU this spring.

"There was a lot of little things, really," Kelly said. "Things like making sure we pick up each other and we're always working hard, I took that away from some of the guys there."

Picking each other up may have been challenging as the Dukes' season progressed last

year. JMU came one game short of advancing to the CAA Tournament in 2018. It was a game that head coach Marlin Ikenberry and his team wish they could have back.

"We've talked about it all year," Ikenberry said. "It actually came down to about three plays, and you wish you could have those three plays back."

One thing Kelly made clear is that he and his team have no reason to look back anymore. All eyes are only looking forward to what they can accomplish this season, and it begins with leadership positions like Kelly's.

Sophomore pitcher Justin Showalter, who recorded 11 strikeouts in nine appearances last season, is one of many on JMU's roster who finds himself in that same position. Having

worked closely with Kelly, Showalter was quick to acknowledge the changes in his teammate's game from his strong offseason.

"He had the best ERA in the league over the summer, which is crazy," Showalter said. "He's been working hard at all the extra things he can do to become better and I think it's going to pay off for him."

Kelly isn't one to brag about his past achievements at JMU or his stats in the CCBA, either. Besides his CCBA stats from last season, Kelly had an impressive

sophomore season with the Dukes. In 2018, Kelly recorded 75 strikeouts, an ERA of 3.74 and held opponents to a batting average of .268.

Arguably his most impressive performance last season for the Dukes was at Hofstra, where he recorded 12 strikeouts against the Pride in a

game last May. Despite the numbers, his focus isn't on last spring, last summer or falling short of the playoffs by one game; it's all about 2019 and taking his team to the CAA Tournament. His coach wasn't surprised by his pitcher's remarks, calling Kelly a model player.

"One of the things I love about Kevin is every time last year when he didn't have an outing as good as he wanted to have, his very next outing was lights out and even better," Ikenberry said. "Kevin is Kevin, he just does his thing and he's humble."

This season looks to be a special one for JMU baseball. With his coach preparing to give him the start on opening night, Kelly's offseason experience and work ethic is something he wants to use to better the people around him — not just the pitchers on the mound, but on the diamond and the outfield as well. For Kelly, the first step of many is getting back to the CAA Tournament with the people he gives all the credit to — his teammates.

"The whole environment around us is more serious and our work ethic is a lot better than in years past," Kelly said. "We're really going to push into the next tier this year."

CONTACT Jordan Simal at simaljg@dukes.jmu.edu.



BREEZE FILE PHOTOS

Kelly went 3-3 last season in 15 appearances with a 3.74 ERA.



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UNCG Martin Downs Collegiate
- Feb. 23 - 24
2019 Seminole Intercollegiate
- March 4 - 5
2019 ECU Intercollegiate
- March 8 - 9
2019 Jackrabbit Invitational
- March 23 - 24
Tar Heel Intercollegiate
- April 6 - 7
Irish Creek Collegiate
- April 19 - 21
2019 CAA Championships

Women's schedule:

- Feb. 7 - 8
Ball State Sunshine Match Play
- Feb. 25 - 26
Oyster Shuck Match Play
- March 4 - 5
Battle at Boulder Creek
- March 18 - 19
Husky Invitational
- March 31 - April 1
Edisto Island Collegiate
- April 12 - 14
2019 CAA Championships

How the Dukes fared in the fall

MEN'S

WOMEN'S

JMU men's golf overcame a five-stroke deficit on the final day of the River Run Collegiate, hosted by Davidson, to pull out the win with a final score of 863, -1 under par. The Dukes' seven-under, 281 score was the best round of the tournament and helped stave off last-minute efforts by second-place Furman and third-place Davidson. Senior Ben Tucker tied for 13th out of 80 participants after a bogey-free outing on the last day with four birdies.

1ST
PLACE
RIVER RUN COLLEGIATE

While the Dukes only won one tournament, they were consistently one of the more competitive programs throughout the fall — finishing in the top five in all tournaments. Tucker finished the fall with an average score of +1 over 11 rounds, sophomore Ignacio Montero had a -7 outing at the Autotrader Collegiate Classic and junior Walker Cress recorded a -3 showing to kick off his season at the River Run Collegiate.

FOUR
top-5
finishes

JMU's best finish of the fall season came in its season opener at the River Course at Kingsmill Resort, as the Dukes pulled out a score of 897 (+33) over the three-day event. After placing seventh in the same event a year before, JMU finished strong and posted the lowest score on Monday (303, +15) — three strokes better than any other team. Junior Lauren Comegys finished in second place with a career-best 214 (-2).

3RD
PLACE
W&M INVITATIONAL

Junior golfer Morgan Cox posted a career-best outing earlier this fall in the Idle Hour Collegiate in Macon, Georgia, finishing in 12th place. Cox opened up the weekend with an even par round before two consecutive rounds of 76 to finish eight-over par. Her three-round score (72-76-76 - 224) set a career low for raw and to-par scores. After her outing, Cox also received CAA Women's Golfer of the Week honors.

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Molly Dougherty elevates game in hopes of second NCAA title run

COURTESY OF JMU ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

Dougherty was named CAA Rookie of the Week three times during the 2018 season. The goalie also made 112 saves and had a 14-0 record last spring.

By **BLAKE PACE**
The Breeze

As JMU lacrosse practice concludes in the early hours of the morning and the Dukes start to head for the buses to take them back to campus, one woman is quietly left behind. She wasn't ditched by her teammates or simply forgotten, but felt that an extra hour of practice in front of the net in freezing temperatures was a necessity to improve her game.

Redshirt sophomore goalkeeper Molly Dougherty has the work ethic of a winner and, after getting the taste of what it feels like to be a national

champion, has her sights on being an even bigger force for JMU lacrosse in 2019.

"I want to elevate my game, of course, but more importantly I'm excited to be able to go for a full season," Dougherty said.

For being the VaSID Rookie of the Year and a First Team All-CAA selection in her first season of play, Dougherty had an uneven beginning to her collegiate career.

After redshirting in 2017 to retain a year of eligibility, Dougherty began the season as the team's backup — sitting behind then-junior Ellie Harmeyer. Dougherty would make the occasional appearance through the first half of the season

and would even begin to split halves with her upperclassman counterpart as conference play opened up.

Though Dougherty was seeing her playing time gradually increase, her name had yet to make the starting lineup through 11 games. But when early April hit and the Dukes played host to the then-3-8 Drexel Dragons, JMU's newest star was born — and only went up from there.

"She's great," senior defender Caroline Sdanowich said. "She's always working and just pushing ourselves every time defensively. She's just really good with giving her point of view and using her IQ to help the team be better."

For a program that graduated all three team captains and eight senior athletes, Dougherty has found herself as one of the rising voices on the field and in the locker room. While she may talk with a soft tone off the field, her booming voice can't escape the most distant ears.

"She's our rock," head coach Shelley Klaes-Bawcombe said. "The biggest thing that I think we've seen evolve for her is just confidence. She presents herself so confident, but is that real? I think that now, her performance in postseason this past year and in the fall has really validated for her the work she's done behind the scenes and now she's seeing it come through in her performance."



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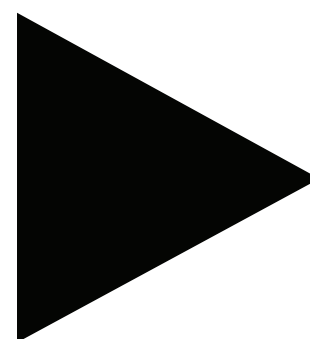
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Dougherty played in 20 games last season and started in 14.

That strong postseason run is what eventually took JMU to the top of world, as the Dukes finished the season with the sixth-best scoring defense in the nation. In the six games between the CAA and NCAA postseasons, Dougherty allowed just over 10 goals a game — including three games against top-12 offenses and five top-50 scorers in the country.

It isn't just the Dukes who have picked up on Dougherty's rise to fame. She spent her offseason working with Team USA on several occasions and most recently spent a weekend at Stanford University participating in the Spring Premiere for the national team. Her participation has her feeling comfortable leading the charge as the season inches closer.

"It's all just having the initiative to not be

afraid to speak up and to not be afraid to say something," Dougherty said. "Even if you may not think it's the right thing at the time, just so you know that you have a voice and that you're using it and that people understand and respect you."

With high confidence and a full season to be had in front of the cage, the 5-foot-7 goal saver is ready to anchor JMU lacrosse in its first ever title-defending season. With a maximum 11 extra starts in her grasp, she has the chance to not only rise up the list of all-time greats in JMU lore, but become one of the best goalkeepers in the nation.

CONTACT Blake Pace at breezesports@gmail.com.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JMU ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

The goalie had three caused turnovers in 2018 and tallied five or more saves in 12 games.

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Stronger together

JMU softball expresses need for growth after early postseason exit

By **JASON CLAMPITT**

The Breeze

JMU softball takes the field for the first time this season in California for the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Elite Invitational on Feb. 15. The Dukes play two top-25 teams in their first four games, including No. 5 Tennessee, who eliminated JMU from the NCAA Regionals last season, and No. 12 Oregon.

"It is a non-conference season, I think it's going to be a good test for us to see where we are, the things where we need to grow and get better at," head coach Loren LaPorte said. "We train our girls to be the best, so it's important for them to play the best so that they can see what their best is."

After finishing 43-14 (19-2 CAA) last season, JMU reached regionals for the sixth-straight year before the Volunteers put an end to its season. Last season, JMU finished its non-conference schedule with a 21-8 record, including an impressive win over a then-No. 15 Cal team. The Dukes enter the season No. 22 in the country, according to the ESPN/USA Softball Collegiate poll, and are taking last season's postseason run as a learning experience for this campaign.

"I think we have a really good balance as far as our team," LaPorte said. "We had a ton of freshmen that started last year that are now sophomores, so they have that postseason experience. Last year, we were very under experienced when it comes to that."

The team adds eight freshmen to replace the five seniors who graduated. One key player the Dukes will look to replace is infielder Morgan Tolle, who hit .403 with 18 home runs and 55 RBIs last season. Overall, the Dukes led the CAA in home runs, slugging percentage and on-base percentage.

"We lost Morgan last year and Morgan was a big part of our lineup," junior infielder Kierstin Roadcap said. "We got a lot of young talent this year that I think is going to help maintain that. We're a power hitting team one through nine, so I think we're going to strive to beat 84 [home runs] this year."

Although JMU hit a conference-high 84 home runs, it's working to produce runs in case the power doesn't show up. JMU has made an emphasis on situational hitting to score runs in late-game moments.

"We've done a lot in the fall working on different scenarios, pretending that there's baserunners on, putting ourselves in more pressure situations so we can perform for when the time comes," Roadcap said. "That's what our coaches like to do with us in practices. Try and put us in real game and pressure situations so that we can perform late in the season."

Sophomore pitcher Payton Buresch and junior pitcher/infielder Odicci Alexander are both coming off productive seasons. Alexander hit .374 with 16 home runs and 56 RBIs while pitching her first full season from the circle while Buresch won CAA Rookie of the Year behind a 1.96 ERA in 39 appearances. Redshirt senior pitcher/infielder Megan Good returns after missing the 2018 season with a knee injury — she hit .383 with 12 home runs and 58 RBIs in 2017.

"In the fall we worked really hard to get stronger as a whole, I think we're bringing that new to the table this year," Buresch said. "The fact that we have Megan back, I think she's going to be huge for this team and be included into pitching rotation. I'm excited to see where we go."

As JMU prepares for the start of the season, it's taking some of the lessons it learned from the previous season and applying them this upcoming campaign. With a strong pitching staff and young core, the Dukes are looking to make a deeper postseason run than years past.

"There's seven innings in a game," Buresch said. "If we're down one inning, it doesn't mean we can't come back. Last year, we kind of [took] our heads out of the game if we were down. I think this year we're a lot mentally stronger and physically stronger, so I think we're ready to go."



TREVOR COCKBURN / THE BREEZE

Madison Naujokas led the Dukes in stolen bases (11) and walks (28) during the 2018 season.

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Double trouble

Mendoza and Steinour team up to provide lethal duo for JMU men's tennis



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By NOAH ZIEGLER
The Breeze

JMU men's tennis has talent in the singles part of the game, but its doubles team of juniors Paul Mendoza and Tate Steinour shows how tennis can be a team sport.

When it comes to singles, a tennis player has to rely on his or her own skill set. In doubles, chemistry and communication are major components of success.

Mendoza, also known as "Lefty" by his teammates, and Steinour are the No. 1 doubles team for the Dukes. Through three matches, they're 2-0, with one match being unfinished because JMU had clinched the doubles point on other courts. The pair won this week's CAA Doubles Team of the Week and is on track to be one of the best doubles partnerships in the conference.

Both Mendoza and Steinour bring different skills to the court, allowing them to complement each other's style. They also work well together through a nonverbal connection to avoid having any mishaps.

"Tate is fearless at the net," assistant coach Jason Sinkoff said. "Paul and Tate are great friends on and off the court, they communicate great together. They almost can instinctively move without even talking."

Mendoza and Steinour work together to form a game plan early in a match. During changeovers, they talk strategy and sometimes crack jokes, but they remain focused to figure out what works for them in order to take advantage and win a doubles point.

"They're pretty analytical in that they figure out the opponents' weaknesses," head coach Steve Secord said. "If they find something early that the other team couldn't do, they would exploit it. It's like in a fight, if somebody gets cut, they're just going to hit that over and over."

Steinour is one of JMU's top singles players and was the No. 1 singles man for a good portion of the 2018 season. Secord knows duals and singles play are different, but the quick turnaround makes it vital for players like Mendoza to carry momentum into their singles matches.

When Mendoza plays singles, he doesn't have to worry about a teammate going for the same ball, but in doubles, it's all about having chemistry with your partner. According to

Mendoza, simply talking is one of the most crucial parts to a successful doubles team.

"A big part is communication," Mendoza said. "Doubles play is fast-paced, and in a high-level doubles match, the guys are typically going right down the middle, so you have to talk to see who's going to take it."

Steinour emphasized the importance of communication and said it's helped him and Mendoza find success this season. Through difficult points in the match, talking helps them remain focused and have the confidence to defeat anyone.

Being friends off the court has helped Mendoza and Steinour work together well. If the chemistry isn't there, teammates have trouble finding ways to get through adversity. In Mendoza and Steinour's case, when one makes a mistake, the other is there to keep his head in the match.

"We know what the other one is doing," Steinour said. "When one of us gets down, the other one can pick the other one up. We play really relaxed and loose together, which helps us."

The chemistry between the two wasn't built in a day, but rather throughout their childhood years. Both come from Richmond, Virginia, and played together frequently before they arrived at JMU. As freshmen, they were roommates, and while they were already good friends at the time, they encountered one small, loud issue: Mendoza's snoring.

"At night he'd play this white noise," Mendoza said. "It's because I snored, so he'd do that to block the sound."

Nobody snores when they watch Mendoza and Steinour play on the court, though. Despite it being winter, the two know how to heat things up once matches begin.

It's still early in the 2019 season, but the fast start shows the force that Mendoza and Steinour can be once CAA play comes around. After last year's CAA quarterfinal exit, the Dukes want to continue to improve and be a conference contender.

"We're nowhere near where we want to be," Sinkoff said. "We want to be playing our best tennis at the end of April when the conference tournament comes. So we'll keep working hard and everyone will keep improving."

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PHOTOS BY TREVOR COCKBURN / THE BREEZE

Through two doubles matches this season, Steinour and Mendoza are 2-0.



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MS043

One for the record books

Freshman tops program-best time in first indoor 500 m run

By **GRAYSON HEFLIN**
The Breeze

Breaking a nearly 20-year-old school record is quite impressive, but recording it in your first official race in the event, in your first year in the sport, is an absolute marvel. That's one of the first telltale signs that JMU freshman sprinter Anoush Stamm is special.

"It was so exciting watching Anoush's race," senior sprinter Kelly Oler said. "I was there screaming for her and gave her a big hug afterwards. It's just so cool to see her be so successful in her first race of the season and I'm just so proud of her putting in work already in January."

On Jan. 26, the Dukes' indoor track and field team competed in the Liberty Kick-off indoor meet in Lynchburg, Virginia. In her first 500 m race for the Dukes, Stamm posted an impressive time of 1:13.80 — beating the previous school record of 1:14.45 held by Shontya' Bready since 2000. This feat is even more distinctive considering it was done by a girl from Louisiana who wanted to play basketball her whole life and has only just picked up her sprinters' cleats.

"I had played basketball for 12 years and I wanted to go to college to play basketball but I had never done track," Stamm said. "At the end of my senior year when I wasn't getting offered any Division I scholarships for basketball, I was very heartbroken."

A conversation with her mother prompted the multifaceted athlete to ditch the hardwood and hit the rubber.

"She thought that I was missing out on an opportunity," Stamm said. "She thought that that was the sport I should have been in all my life ... She said, 'Do track. You can quit after two weeks.' I said, 'Well the problem is I'm not a quitter so I'll just have to do it, if it really makes you happy I'll run track for you mom.'"

In short time, it already appears as if Stamm made the correct decision. With years to grow and improve upon her fast start, director of track and field Ta' Frias is ready for her to take on bigger challenges.

"It's very exciting for her to kind of go through this," Frias said. "It's her first indoor season ever, it's her first full year of training in track and field ever, so there are a lot of firsts for Anoush and it's just kind of exciting for it to be her first record ever."

By setting the bar so high, Stamm has instantly made a big impact on the JMU team and shown her potential as a runner. Frias

and the Dukes won't just settle with breaking records or first-place finishes, but have much higher aspirations than that. They also carry the motivation of simply getting better day in and day out.

"My hope is that we go on and start winning championships, bringing home championships, qualifying for postseason, getting into the NCAA Championship," Frias said. "Keep working hard so that we're there at those meets and more importantly when we're at the conference championship is that we're getting points, we're getting first place hopefully we're breaking more records but more importantly that we go out there and put our best foot forward."

Stamm is added into the mix of an already competitive team that looks to be better each and every day. Frias knows these high aspirations can't be achieved overnight and will take hard work, but she wants to see her team getting better and moving closer to its goals.

"I really want to see their improvement, I want to see the things that we can't always coach," Frias said. "That's the aggression, that's the desire to compete, the desire to win at all costs. I get very happy when they go out and just give me the best effort that they have. It always helps when it's a record or helps when it's a first-place finish, but for the most part if we go out there, if we're improving, if we're learning I can never be mad at that."

The record-breaking performance adds in to some of the team's successes. The Dukes are showing signs that this work is starting to pay off as they get closer to realizing their potential and achieving their goals. Their individual success also motivates and pushes others in practice, as the Dukes both race against the clock and their fellow teammates.

"I think we're all pretty competitive with each other at practice," Oler said. "Just seeing that transition to meets is exciting for us."

Stamm's short-term success has almost overshadowed the fact that she's still so new to the sport. With still so much to learn and improve on, the potential is high for Stamm, who already has her sights set on another record and new goal.

"With track you can always strive for a faster time," Stamm said. "I would also love to strive to break my PR in the 400 and possibly break the school record for that, that would be amazing. Just to keep growing and learning in the sport because it is still so new to me and I



COURTESY OF JMU ATHLETICS PHOTOGRAPHY

Stamm recorded a record-breaking time during her first chance at running the 500 m race on Jan. 26.

am still learning so much. I thought I knew how to run and then I came here and coach Frias taught me how to run ... There's so much to learn, track is so much more than just running

and I'm learning stuff every day."

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