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Brontë Johnson

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PHOTO ON THE FRONT: GENEVIEVE EDELSON / THE BREEZE

Mission

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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*Annual Percentage Yield (APY). Students earn 2.1% APY on the first $1,000 on deposit. Federally insured by NCUA. Equal Opportunity Lender.
Keith Darrell (center) preached outside Carrier Library Monday and Tuesday.

By BRONTÉ JOHNSON
contributing writer

A massive crowd of students gathered outside Carrier Library on Monday, shouting and arguing against the scene that had unfolded. The horde of JMU students gathered to listen to one man shout and attempt to propagate his religious beliefs.

The scene involved groups of protestors, police officers and even a costumed Jesus and God. The man in the center of the whirlwind of shouting was self-proclaimed “Campus Preacher” Keith Darrell, who’s a member of Church Fellowship, a religious evangelism group attempting to spread Christianity.

“I am here to preach the good news,” Darrell said, holding a Bible in his left hand. “God loves the world. And through his death, I am here to preach the good news.”

“God loves you,” he shouted, holding a Bible in his left hand. “God loves you.”

Throughout the day, Darrell touched on topics such as the rising of the Messiah, gender equality, homosexuality and many other present-day controversial topics. Alexey Taylor, a senior health sciences major, said Darrell made comments about the black and LGBTQ communities, so when she walked toward the area, she decided to check it out and eventually told the group that this was a “bad perception” of Christianity.

“Christianity is love, and it’s not condemnation. It’s not hate, like, you’re not defined by your sin. Like there’s, there’s no, like, it’s not an exclusive club,” Taylor said. “You don’t have to meet the standards in order to be a Christian.”

Additionally, Jerry Rindeau, pastor for Cru, wants the JMU community to know that Christianity is a welcoming faith that revolves around the positive message of redemption.

“You want to make sure that [the offended students] knew that I, as a Christian, loved and respected them,” Rindeau said. “I’d want them to know that they’re safe around me, they’re safe in my community [and] they’re safe coming to my church and my ministry.”

The faces of many students grew angry throughout the progression of Darrell’s sermon, upset by what he said. Members of the crowd weren’t hesitant to speak up, voicing their opinions — both serious and superficial — by shouting back at Darrell and almost always receiving support from fellow students.

“You’ve got so many people here shouting, saying that they’re right, and so are you,” one student challenged. “But how do you know you’re right?”

JMU’s Spokesman and Director of Communications Bill Wyatt said that JMU doesn’t have any policies in place to deter people away from speaking about their beliefs on campus.

“You have a right to free speech, everyone on campus, regardless of your religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomic class or background,” Wyatt said.

University administration encourages individuals to speak their minds, regardless of topic.

“What was important to the father of the Constitution, James Madison, always remains important to us,” Wyatt said. “Diversity of thought is important to education, and it is important to encourage free speech.”

Wyatt also highlighted the importance of safety in these situations. He said that when situations such as these occur, police officers are always sent to the area.

Some students created signs with creative and positive messages, such as “love” or “trans rights,” while others had referrals to SoundCloud usernames, legalizing cocaine and “donate to Pike-tober Fest.” Many of the messages written were in direct contradiction to much of what Darrell said.

“God loves the world. And through his death, I am here to preach the good news.”

“Just don’t want anyone to think that Christianity is, like, this harsh, judgmental thing,” Taylor said. “That’s not what it’s supposed to be.”

Although Darrell remained insistent that his messages were “for the greater good” of the people, many in the audience had varying opinions.

Biophysical chemistry major Bee Swatosh was on the scene for about two hours, listening to what was being said on both sides.

“He said, ‘Women were less than men,’ ‘Christianity was right’ [and] ‘every other religion was wrong.’ Swatosh said.

To many of the students present, Darrell’s overarching message was offensive and negative.

A day after the incident, additional preachers came onto campus along with Darrell. Topics of the new sermons referenced many of Darrell’s own, including concepts of forgiveness, condemnation and the extent of God’s “love.”

Darrell said he hoped what happened at the gathering lead students toward a spiritual awakening.

“I am persuaded that God loves people,” Darrell said. “From where I sit, I love these people, even if they disagree with me.”

Katelyn Waltemyer and Connor Murphy contributed to this report.
A new path

Pathrise provides services to college students who plan to pursue careers in tech industry

By KAMRYN KOCH
The Breeze

According to a study by CompTIA, 261,000 new jobs were added in the technology industry in the U.S. in the past year. Although the number of jobs in the field continues to increase, recent graduates who specialize in tech can still have difficulties during the job search. Pathrise is a program that allows new job seekers to access personalized advice through trained advisers to dramatically increase the chance of job placement within 12 months.

"Not everybody is in a school smack dab in the middle of the Silicon Valley or even lucky enough to be in a computer science organization," Pathrise CEO Kevin Wu said. "A lot of what the inspiration for Pathrise was, it was like a systematic way of sharing that access, sharing that information with the people that don’t necessarily get that."

Pathrise was founded in February 2017, and its first cohort of job seekers, or fellows, was enrolled in January 2018. Cofounders Wu and Derrick Mar have backgrounds working at nonprofits that specialize in education-technology and mentorship. Their goal in creating Pathrise was to allow further access to the skills necessary for one to get the best job possible.

Those who want to get started with Pathrise have to be accepted through an application process that involves an introduction survey and industry assessment, which both evaluate the applicant’s goals, experiences and skills. Once accepted, the fellow can begin speaking with their adviser and attending workshops risk-free for two weeks.

"I think it’s really revolving around this idea of ‘hustle,’" Wu said. "In my personal career, there hasn’t really been anything that I haven’t started or been able to achieve because of ‘hustle,’ where most of it I owe to some degree of network shenanigans."

Though networking came easily to Wu, this case isn’t the same for many others in the industry, which can put them at a disadvantage during the job search. Wu wanted to make these networking skills more accessible, in addition to creating a central source of information about the job search, as opposed to Google search results, which Wu says are “spotty” and "unreliable."

"Pathrise is a central source of truth where we’re actually continuing to do research and collecting data on each of these pieces of the job search," Wu said. "There’s lots of really valuable skills that job seekers have, and also a lack of transparency in the job search, and those combined together make it a perfect place to start."

The company doesn’t have an up-front cost for clients, but after a fellow has been hired, Pathrise requires them to pay 9% of one year’s worth of income. Laura Hickerson, assistant director of employer engagement for JMU’s Career and Academic Planning, advises students to be wary of companies with these types of agreements.

"No student should ever pay to get an internship or a full-time job," Hickerson said. "There’s lots of companies that would love to have you that aren’t going to make you pay."

see JOB SEARCH, page 7
JMU partners with Louisa County Public Schools to address country-wide teacher shortage at the local level

By ISABELA GLADSTON
contributing writer

Louisa County has implemented a new program at their schools that emulates JMU’s Young Children’s Program. This partnership has allowed Louisa County schools to develop the Little Lions Learning Lab, which hires students from Louisa County Public Schools who are interested in the teaching profession.

Teresa Harris, JMU’s department head of early elementary and reading education, had the Louisa County program initiators visit the YCP, where they decided to do something similar in Louisa County. After this meeting, Harris connected them with Donald Wilson, an assistant professor in the college of education at JMU.

They looked at the curriculum for the new program and best practices in teaching and physical environments, and then created a policy and procedures handbook for it. With the help of Doug Straley, the superintendent of Louisa County schools, and Kenneth Bouwens, the director of Career and Technical Education, Science Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math and Innovation of Louisa County schools, and others, the Little Lions Learning Lab was officially implemented this past August.

Bouwens said the Virginia Department of Education granted Louisa County $50,000 to implement this new program. This helped the program coordinators buy new materials, furniture, educational equipment and toys for the new space.

“This program provides high-quality childcare, employs teachers from the Louisa County school division and serves as a training ground for students in the career and technical education program who are thinking about careers as teachers in the future,” Wilson said.

The students who are in the career technology education program at Louisa County schools will be able to graduate with their Child Development Accreditation certificate, which they’ll be able to use as they enter the workforce in a childcare center or preschool. These students could also go into the associate’s degree program at one of the Virginia community colleges and then attend JMU’s Bachelor of Instructional Science two-year program, which certifies them to teach pre-k to third grade.

see EDUCATION, page 8
Senior engineering major Jacob Ortiz previously worked at the tech company Neustar, Inc. as a network infrastructure intern. Although he was able to obtain this internship successfully without Pathrise, the interview process was still difficult for him.

“I definitely struggle with the interview process,” Ortiz said. “I’ve had a couple of video interviews that I wish I prepared more for.”

Wu considers the modern-day interviewing framework repetitive and underdeveloped. Because of this, Pathrise was designed to relieve the anxiety that job-seekers face by providing advisors that are with their fellows each step of the way.

Ortiz was able to make several connections early on by reaching out to anyone in the industry who would give him advice — from his parents’ friends to individuals in a religious community. He’s noticed that some of his colleagues have had more trouble with networking because of the social aspect.

“It’s sad, but it’s not what you know, it’s who you know,” Ortiz said. “Having a resource like that would be extremely helpful because some people aren’t as lucky.”

According to its website, Pathrise, on average, has doubled interview response rates for its users, and those fellows receive $12,600 or more above the industry’s average salary. No JMU students or graduates have utilized Pathrise yet, but the program hopes to keep expanding its service to job seekers across the country. Wu said he doesn’t think there’s any other product that can impact somebody’s career as much as Pathrise can.

“I think what we’re doing is really meaningful,” Wu said. “You really get to see firsthand the impact that we have on helping people fulfill their aspirations and succeed in achieving a livelihood.”

CONTACT Kamryn Koch at kochkr@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.
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**Bouwens said “the program is creating a pipeline pathway starting at Louisa and moving onto community college, then to JMU and then back to teaching for Louisa County Public Schools.”**

He said they offer the childcare service to existing staff, which helps the teacher shortage crisis while also giving children a robust environment because the program is education-based.

According to the Learning Policy Institute, 11% of Virginia teachers planned to leave the profession in 2018, compared to the national average of 7.3%.

“In a perfect world, we would excite students who didn’t think they were interested in the teaching profession and maybe create a passion in them for education,” Bouwens said.

Doug Staley said that this program is addressing a country-wide issue.

“The whole idea behind it is that there really is a critical teacher shortage across the country, and it’s a situation where we’ve gotta make sure we’re going to have great teachers,” Staley said. “You know, if you want to be great, you’ve gotta have great people.”

Staley and Bouwens said they believe that this new program will help with the teacher and childcare shortage by giving other students experience in their particular field, which will drive their passion along to college and then hopefully back to the county to teach.

“We are opening up the opportunity to grow our own teachers and that’s what this is all about,” Staley said.

**CONTACT** Isabela Gladston at gladstia@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.
## COME SEE YOUR DUKES IN ACTION

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MEGAN KLEPPER | changing perspective

Some students have been outraged at changes in the Counseling Center. The center announced that, effective Oct. 17, it’ll “no longer be able to defer to students’ preferences or requests to meet individually with a counselor.” Instead, it’ll direct students to group counseling. Specialized counseling, treatment programs and online counseling resources. Although these programs could potentially help some students, they aren’t for everyone. Some students may want that individual therapy experience but won’t be able to receive it.

The Counseling Center posted a clarification statement saying they haven’t eliminated individual counseling sessions for students. They claim most students come in with needs that align with other types of therapy, such as something that’s the main discussion in a certain group therapy session. This creates problems for those who may connect with people in group therapy but don’t feel comfortable sharing their stories. Students may feel uncomfortable speaking about their personal issues, even if they’re surrounded by others who’ve gone through the same thing. This change could cause students to refrain from going to the Counseling Center in fear that they’ll have to share their stories with someone other than a therapist.

Although students seem to be retaliating against the Counseling Center’s decision, blame should be placed elsewhere. The staff at the Counseling Center are making these changes to help as many students as possible. In their announcement, the Counseling Center emphasized that the change was due to high demand creating scheduling conflicts. Students who’ve been to the Counseling Center have probably noticed firsthand that it’s not as spacious as it should be. There aren’t enough staff members or rooms to accommodate the amount of students who want one-on-one therapy sessions.

The administration should focus on expanding the Counseling Center. Alumni donations and fundraising could provide a budget to either expand the counseling center in SSC or move it to a new building. This way, more counselors could be hired, creating more time and space for one-on-one sessions. Although hiring more counselors would mean paying more faculty, this seems like a reasonable cost. The expansion of athletic buildings, new dining halls and parking decks have left some students concerned about the priorities of the administration. Although these funds come from a different budget, JMU should look into specific aspects of the university that may need more funding.

The most common mental health issues on college campuses include anxiety, depression, suicide, bipolar disorder, eating disorders, addiction, self-harm and struggles with identity. However, just because these mental health issues are common doesn’t mean those experiencing them want to share their stories with others. The Counseling Center offers group therapy for almost all of these topics and encourages the students to discuss their issues with each other. While this type of therapy may work for some, it won’t work for everyone. People who want individual counseling may have to look off-campus for a therapist, which could cost a large sum of money with or without insurance.

At the end of the day, the university needs to care about its students. The administration needs to prioritize what matters most and not focus on the outward appearance. It’s unfair and blatantly disrespectful to students when the administration would rather build a new stadium than a place for comfort and therapy. JMU needs to be held responsible for its actions and prove to students that it cares. Megan Klepper is a senior, writing, rhetoric and technical communication major. Contact Megan at kleppemc@dukes.jmu.edu.
These unhealthy studying habits have rippled across the student body, creating the expectation and encouragement of studying late. Students can often be heard bragging about how late they were at the library and how little they slept, reflecting the academic pressure put on students by others and by themselves and creating a competition to one-up each other. If gradual change was made to alter JMU’s current policies, these attitudes among students could change. Additionally, allowing the libraries to remain open late doesn’t encourage students to finish work in a timely manner. Students may not feel the need to complete work as soon as it’s assigned as long as the option to do it the night before in a silent environment exists.

Students themselves aren’t at fault for merely using what JMU has given them. JMU can and should do better for its students. Instead of preaching and practicing different methods about mental health, policies should change to reflect what JMU claims its values are. To display JMU values mental health, it should stop advertising how late libraries and Starbucks are open on tours to potential students, begin removing 5-hour Energy drinks from the vending machines and start posting reminders on the importance of sleep in the library. JMU owes its students the best learning environment possible, and mental health is a point that can’t be compromised.

Allie Boulier is a freshman biology major. Contact Allie at boulieas@dukes.jmu.edu.
Imagine yourself in a kindergarten classroom. It's time for show and tell, and a five-year-old girl is excited to show off her favorite Barbie doll to the entire class. She bounces up, full of confidence and barely able to contain her enthusiasm, then proceeds to hold up to the class a little doll with a similar skin and hair color to herself like a beacon of light for all to behold.

Then, rather than explain her doll's fairytale story full of dashing princes and knights, this five-year-old begins to recite the preamble to the United States Constitution, albeit haphazardly, and poses her little Barbie doll with a tiny gavel raised powerfully in the air as if she's some sort of superhero ready to fly up and shatter any glass ceiling in her way.

That's right, the girl's favorite doll is a judge.

There have been only four female justices in the history of the United States Supreme Court, but Barbie and her powerful girl squad just added four more. The latest dolls in the career Barbie series don the black robes seen before on the likes of the notorious Ruth Bader Ginsburg and trailblazer Sandra Day O'Connor, but this time, the robes are on four cute Barbie dolls of apparently different ethnicities, each one complete with her own tiny gavel.

Now, I understand that, as a young woman who plans to attend law school and begin a legal career in the near future, I may be way more excited by Judge Barbie than most people. I also understand that there are people who are generally annoyed by Barbie dolls, people who believe dolls give little girls an unhealthy idea of feminine physical perfection and unrealistic standards by which to eventually judge themselves as young women, and others who see Barbie as nothing but evil patriarchal propaganda that encourages oppressive beauty standards for profit. I get it, I really do—but I think everyone needs to chill out for a minute, realize that it's not that deep, accept that kids are allowed to enjoy things even if they seem silly or unrealistic or otherwise flawed to adults and simply enjoy how cool these new dolls are.

If unrealistic dolls are going to put crazy ideas in little girls' heads about who they want to be as adults, it's absolutely fabulous for little girls to get the crazy idea to become civically valuable and highly educated citizens capable of influencing society when they grow up. We live in a constitutional democracy after all, not a monarchy, so there should be more judge dolls, politician dolls, first lady dolls and madame president dolls than princess dolls. Those are more realistic life paths, however far-fetched they may seem.

Little girls everywhere may be inspired by the new Judge Barbie.
Personally, I can’t express how much I love Judge Barbie. I can easily think back to the simple joy I experienced from playing with dolls as a kid and inventing worlds for them to inhabit. I can vaguely remember the wild storylines I used to invent and the adventures I’d make my Barbies go on, so imagining that little girls will get the same joy from playing with a doll wearing the black robes is surreal.

It’s amazing to think that some future lawyer, future judge or future Supreme Court justice might first begin to imagine herself in such an esteemed position at such a young age because of a little piece of plastic molded and colored to look somewhat like her, dressed up like something that, before, seemed so far out of reach. It’s amazing to think a fictional court case complete with complicated moral queries might work its way into some little girl’s game, that she might write up a fake Constitution or list of laws for her little plastic judge to interpret, and that maybe after some time playing with Judge Barbie, she’ll grow interested in becoming the real thing. Little kids are so much smarter and more thoughtful than adults give them credit for, and even the earliest moments of someone’s childhood can have a profound influence on their future academic direction and eventual career choices.

I’m convinced that at least one little girl will unknowingly start her path toward a successful legal career with a Judge Barbie in her hand. On her law school graduation, her mother might giggle and cry and pull out an old photograph of that same girl from when her age was only a single-digit number, smiling at the camera with a Judge Barbie in one hand, a cheap plastic gavel in the other, her mother’s high-heeled shoes on her feet to make her feel taller and a crazy feather boa around her neck, which she imagines to be the lacy collar of her black robes. Her mother may look up at her grown daughter, now donning very real graduation robes as she receives her juris doctorate, and she’ll be so struck by how things can change so drastically and so quickly, yet also stay exactly the same.

If you ask me, any silly little thing that can plant big dreams in a child’s mind is exactly what we need more of in the world. A small dose of realism may force them to adjust their goals later, but I pray most children keep their childish enthusiasm as long as humanly possible. So to every little girl clutching a Judge Barbie doll, I say: onwards and upwards. Keep your crazy dreams. Keep them close to your heart, and pursue them without remorse. The world needs all you can give.

Sophia Cabana is a senior history and independent scholars double major. Contact Sophia at cabanasl@dukes.jmu.edu.
Humans of Madison

Interviews collected on JMU’s campus

Francesca Ross

“‘I’m a senior geographic science major from Richmond, Virginia, and I really like the geographic science major as a whole even though I’m not crazy about school as a whole. But, basically, geographic science is about connecting every subject in the world, pretty much, all together ... It’s a pretty small major so the faculty and the students are really close. We just took a trip to New York City to study sustainable urban design but also how that impacts humans and social justice issues and environmental justice issues and how everything is just interconnected.”

Watch the video and submit a nomination on breezejmu.org

The performing arts can often have a prominent influence on society beyond entertainment. Dance for Parkinson’s (DFP), originally created by David Leventhal, the program director, in Brooklyn, New York, provides breaks in the barriers of social anxieties, isolation and self-consciousness those who have Parkinson’s Disease may feel.

DFP is an international program that was implemented in the spring at JMU, thanks to Kate Trammell. She’s a recently retired professor of dance who has an extensive background in the artistic community. She said her central motive in commencing the program at the university is to expand the way dance can impact lives.

“I’d been working with elderly people and people with disabilities for some time, and this seemed like a really good program,” Trammell said. “They have a very clear-cut kind of curriculum for studying and building your skills.”

Trammell was proactive and quickly brought in participants like William Painter, a dancer in the DFP program with Parkinson’s disease.

“I had only been diagnosed a short time and had no previous contact with Parkinson’s groups,” Painter said. “I had known Kate for a number of years and followed her dance programs, so I was inclined to get into anything she was leading.”

DFP is a form of therapy for those who live with Parkinson’s. The classes focus on different physical reliefs to improve balance, mobile ability and mental health. Ashton Clevenger, a junior dance and media arts and design double major who’s deeply involved with DFP, said there are many studies of the long-term effects of the activity.

“The actual dancing and going through movements can help their joints. Getting them moving may slow down progression,” Clevenger said. “It is also very good for the people with Parkinson’s, socially — they might not leave house as much.”

Painter described his time so far with DFP as pleasant and a motivator for further success with PD. He appreciates the opportunity he took advantage of when he signed up for class in the spring.

“DFP, together with other follow-up programs, has encouraged me to stay with the exercises I learned. These exercises seem to be effective in arresting further progress of my PD, at least for now,” Painter said. “As far as psychological benefits, I am coming to terms with the fact that I have PD, and I can recognize that many other people have it too. I see that there are many forms of PD and that for many people, there are many ways to resist the progress of the disease.”

Those with Parkinson’s often have a caregiver, which can create a unique relationship, according to Trammell.

With the physical limitations Parkinson’s entails, the dynamics of this bond can be challenged. DFP provides an atmosphere for these connections to grow playfully and companionably.

“JMU has a lot of interest in connecting with the community in meaningful ways,” Trammell said. “It is a good fit for JMU’s mission, and it is very important. I believe for the university to work in collaboration with the community because so often, there can be this big gap between town and gown, as they say, and sometimes, hard feelings about it. It’s important to be able to work with people in the community in ways that are respectful of what they believe their needs to be.”

The College of Visual and Performing Arts and the College of Health and Behavioral Studies came together in the spring and immersed themselves in the hands-on experience. When Trammell asked students to become involved, there was no hesitation. They began as teaching assistants and quickly expanded their involvement.

Junior dance and pre-occupational therapy major Chloe Conway, along with other students, applied for the CVPA research grant to travel out of the country to Toronto to learn Leventhal’s class. They were taught why the DFP classes are structured the way they are, discussed safety and had the opportunity to attend other classes.

“It’s really opened up doors that I didn’t know existed,” Abby Wiegand, a junior music education major, said. “I’ve gotten to know some really great people, and the actual dancers are a wonderful influence.”

Diverse students gather for classes, and community participants respond positively because of the deep, active dedication shown by its members. Trammell said.

“The most important thing it does for me is provide community,” Trammell said. “So, when class happens, there’s a group of people who understand and share some common experience, and everyone can be themselves. It’s very special.”

One symptom of Parkinson’s that’s often recognizable is a person’s difficulty expressing emotions. When someone participates in a DFP class, they can express themselves in another form when they’re struggling with their identity, Clevenger said. The organization hopes to embody the positive outcomes it has on its dancers.

“My favorite aspect is the opportunity to move to music,” Painter said. “It’s also an opportunity to meet other people who have PD and their family members. I have a ‘community’ with these people.”

Anyone can be involved in this program to assist people with Parkinson’s. It creates an optimistic and entertaining experience for all involved in a physically and emotionally well-rounded way. Dance for Parkinson’s in the JMU community deems itself as a door-opening, special and freeing occurrence.

“Dance is a way to communicate with people that I don’t feel like I have through words,” Conway said. “A release that I don’t feel any other way. I love how it brings people together.”

Dance For Parkinson’s engages students and community members in energetic activity

© Catherine Perrine / Contributing photographer
Spectators of the latest exhibit in the Virginia Quilt Museum will be treated to a vibrant display of quilts that celebrate the life of Elvis Presley. The museum has been in Harrisonburg for 24 years, but the actual house has existed since 1875. A variety of unique quilts made by different artists, primarily from Virginia, are featured.

The current main exhibit was originated, coordinated and curated by quilt maker Donna DeSoto. It contains quilts created by artists from places like Singapore, Australia, Slovakia, Canada and California who all share a common love of Presley. The collection contains 94 quilts that depict Presley's life and will be on display until Dec. 14.

"The inspiration for me was a strong desire to be an artist who made such an impact on popular culture," DeSoto said. "Hardly a day seems to go by when I don’t hear a mention of Elvis. Personally, I loved his music and his movies — he was my first crush."

Some of the quilts in the exhibit are abstract interpretations of Presley, while others are more visionary ones. The quilts detail a range of topics from Presley’s younger years to his rise to fame in movies and music.

This exhibit is similar to DeSoto’s first international large-scale project, which was inspired by The Beatles. For that one, quilts had to be 36” x 36” and original. Quilting has always been important to DeSoto, and she’s thankful for all the skills she’s learned from the hobby.

DeSoto said quilting helps the brain in mathematical and problem-solving ways. Quilters also hone their skills through creating pieces for quilt festivals and exhibits, much like the current Presley exhibit at the museum. The museum is a tourist attraction in Harrisonburg that participates in community outreach events.

Danielle Stockbridge, the marketing and events coordinator, advertised for the museum in the Blueridge Country Magazine, American Quilters Quarterly and the Virginia Register. The museum mainly employs volunteers. Stockbridge said the staff tries to employ people who need to complete community service and students looking for work.

"We pull a lot on the skills that our volunteers have," Stockbridge said.

DeSoto has used her love of Presley to share her work with the community through quilting. Along with the skills she’s learned, DeSoto also said she’s thankful for the inclusivity of the quilting community.

"Quilting is my passion. It is a means of connecting with people, both quilters and the general public," DeSoto said. "I have found a wonderful camaraderie in communities of quilters. We share a love of color, pattern, design, creating wonders out of fabric and thread stitched with love. Quilting is so much more than a hobby."

Stockbridge has also expanded community outreach to include JMU history professor Philip Herrington, who took some of his students on a tour of the museum.

“I recently took my preservation class there because it’s a good example of a historic structure with many different interior and exterior alterations,” Herrington said.

Susan Farmbridge, the executive director of the museum, said she plans to increase the number of exhibits each year. Currently, there are two main exhibits, and she hopes to increasingly add smaller exhibits. In 2020, the museum plans to host a women’s history exhibit, and in 2021, an immigration-focused exhibit called “Forced to Flee.”

“Our goal is to expand our interpretation and expand the type of exhibits so that we can show quilting’s relevance to today’s society,” Farmbridge said.

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CONTACT Morgan Vuknic at vuknicma@dukes.jmu.edu. For more on the culture, arts and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Twitter @Breeze_Culture.
By JAKE CONLEY
The Breeze

An hour before the night’s show starts, Brent Comer arrives at the theater. His call time isn’t for another half hour, but he likes to be early. Once he’s checked in, he heads to the dressing room he shares with several fellow cast members. Others stretch or perform vocal warmups, but Comer chooses to listen to music and meditate, centering his mind; he’s been warming up all day.

Next come his microphone and makeup — eyeliner and fake dirt required for his role — before he dons his costume and walks on stage. A few short moments later, the stage manager announces the start of the show, the curtain rises and Comer steps into the world of “Les Misérables.”

Comer, a JMU alumnus (’19), graduated in May, and a few short months later, he was cast as an ensemble member in the Broadway national tour of “Les Misérables,” the musical based on the book by French author Victor Hugo. Comer describes it as being about “the complexities and hardships of persisting through the human condition.”

He remembers exactly what happened when he received the call notifying him of his casting, even down to the exact street intersection in New York where he ran out to celebrate. He said it was a moment that made him feel like he was flying.

“I got the call in the middle of that restaurant, that I had gotten the job,” Comer said. “I went out on 8th avenue — I think it was 34th and 8th — and I was screaming in the middle of the street. I stopped traffic, and I started screaming.”

Comer started pursuing that moment his junior year of high school. After accidentally signing up for a musical theater class, he just, as he described it, “stood up and sang” on the first day and earned the lead role in his high school’s musical, “Zombie Prom.”

After a gap year spent working and taking classes at his community college in Frederick, Maryland, the budding artist decided to pursue theater as a full-time career, starting with an audition into JMU’s musical theatre program that earned him both a spot in the program and a scholarship.

For Ben Lambert, a JMU theater professor who taught Comer, his past student’s success is no surprise. Lambert recalled that Comer flourished from the day he started at JMU, describing him as “one of those rare students that came to us, sort of, as a fully formed artist.”

“When we worked on things together, I always felt like we were able to work as two artists seeing eye to eye,” Lambert said. “And [we were], kind of, coming up with creative ideas and decisions and strategies that were exciting to both of us.”

Praise of Comer’s work at JMU was echoed by his peers as well. Ally Dods, a senior musical theatre major, spoke of the reckless abandon and boldness he displayed in his work as an actor. Dods said that “because that’s always, like, [going to] be what the audience members remember.”

After his time at JMU, Comer moved to New York City, wanting to “put his money where his mouth was.” After several months living on a few dollars and a dream, the call finally came.

“I spent three, two, three months living in New York, not having much money, no air conditioning, living in, like, a cockroach-filled apartment and just working at a restaurant every night of the week,” Comer said.

On July 5, Comer was notified by his agent that “Les Miserables” was looking for an immediate replacement for an ensemble member. He said that as soon as he heard about the opening, he “knew it was something he could do,” describing it as “a dream show.”
A week after Comer was first notified of the opening, he walked into Ripley-Grier Studios in New York City and sang several parts for the “Les Miserables” character Enjolras. A few days and one more audition later — this time, a private session with the show’s musical director — Comer received the phone call telling him he’d gotten the part.

“It felt unreal,” Comer said. “It felt like I was dreaming, and I was going to wake up at any second. I just felt so thankful.”

Lambert wasn’t at all surprised when he heard the news about Comer’s casting; he expected success, and he expected it to come quickly. In his words, the role “really validates all the work [Comer’s] done.”

“I knew it was going to happen,” Lambert said. “Something like that was going to happen to him fairly soon, and I think this is, frankly, just the tip of the iceberg of where he’s going.”

Comer’s on tour now, living out the first part of the dream, but for him, he’s only at the very beginning of his professional journey. Through it all, Comer’s passion and love for theater remain unchanged, and he said it’s a fire that’ll keep him going “as long as I can, as long as I feel like I’m contributing something to the artistic community.”

“I look at a city, and I know it’s beautiful, and I want to give something to the city, contribute to it,” Comer said. “I think it’s nice knowing that, ‘Well, OK. I’m going to help give that city a great moment tonight.’”

CONTACT | Jake Conley at breezecopy@gmail.com. For more on the culture, arts and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Twitter @Breeze_Culture.
By CATIE HARPER
The Breeze

While JMU football’s 38-24 victory over conference foe Villanova on Saturday wasn’t an upset, the events in the rest of the CAA didn’t play out as expected.

No. 9 Towson fell at home to unranked Albany, Elon steamrolled No. 15 Delaware, No. 18 Maine remained winless in conference place as it fell to Richmond and No. 22 Stony Brook lost for a second straight week, this time to New Hampshire.

Through seven weeks of college football, one thing’s clear — anything can happen when two CAA teams come face-to-face.

“IT’s probably the most competitive league in FCS’ senior defensive lineman John Daka said. “It’s probably the most unpredictable league in all D-I football to be honest with you, because day in, day out, somebody can get beat.”

The players who suit up for the purple and gold have come to expect it: It’s not about which team is ranked higher or had the better season in the year prior. It’s all about that Saturday on the football field.

Over the past few seasons, especially since head coach Curt Cignetti arrived in December, JMU football has taken a “one game at a time” mentality. It’s never about what CAA opponents lie ahead in three weeks, a possible playoff push or the team the Dukes played the week prior.

“We try not to make it bigger than what it really is — Saturday is just another game,” redshirt senior quarterback Ben DiNucci said ahead of JMU’s game against Villanova.

Before the 2019 season kicked off, teams like Towson, Maine and Elon were picked to finish No. 2-5 in the CAA standings. But through the first half of CAA play, that’s not how games have played out.

Elon currently sits the highest out of the three with a .500 record in CAA play — good for sixth in the conference. Towson and Maine, though, haven’t fully lived up to preseason expectations. Towson sits at 1-2 in the CAA, while Maine has yet to pick up a conference win through three games.

While some teams struggle, others, like Albany, have flown up the CAA standings, exceeding preseason expectations. Picked to finish at the bottom of the conference at No. 12, Albany has picked up two CAA wins, including one against a ranked Towson team this past weekend.

“It’s fun,” junior offensive lineman Liam Fornadel said on playing in the CAA. “Everybody brings their all every week … and nobody’s gonna let up, no matter what the score is. If it’s [a] tight game or … the outcome is pretty much determined — it doesn’t matter. They’re going to come, and they’re to compete.”

Last weekend’s games weren’t short of fun. Losses were suffered, big wins were earned and the national standings were shaken. Heading into Week 7 of the college football season, the CAA had six teams ranked in the top-25, including one against a ranked Towson team this past weekend.

To most, that’s understandable. The Bison have claimed every single FCS National Title since 2011, excluding 2016 when the Dukes took it all. But to the players on JMU’s roster, they believe they’re currently playing in the top conference.

“They obviously haven’t kept up in the last couple years,” Fornadel said on people who say the CAA isn’t the best conference. “Just watch a couple games. I guess that’s what I’d have to say [to them].”

CONTACT Catie Harper at breezesports@gmail.com. For more football coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.
JMU men’s soccer (9-4-1, 4-0-1 CAA) has been one of the strongest teams in the CAA this fall. The team’s recent eight-game winning streak and perfect home record makes it clear that the Dukes are a strong contender for the conference title.

Like any team, chemistry between the athletes is vital for a successful season. Whether it’s during team-building activities or staying in hotels for away games, a team often becomes family. Men’s soccer at JMU is no exception; the Dukes are proof that strong team chemistry pays off.

“From the minute we step on the field, we know we are a family,” senior midfielder Manuel Ferriol said. “Every time we step on the field, we have handshakes we do and huddle, and the captains get us ready to go for the game.”

The Dukes are currently unbeaten in CAA play, as well as being undefeated at Sentara Park (6-0-0). After making the Elite Eight last season, JMU has made a statement this season: It’s determined to make it to the NCAA College Cup. JMU defeated Wake Forest on Sept. 17, and by looking at how the team celebrated, the team’s chemistry is evident.

“A lot of it is just spending time with each other,” head coach Paul Zazenski said. “On the road trips, we try to design specific pairings for the hotels. We try to have them eat together and not use cell phones.”

The teams at JMU can have a strong connection and passion for the game, and the members of the soccer team are no different. It’s common to see the soccer team messing around and having fun before games by jumping on each other’s backs or dancing to the music playing. With the help of sports psychology departments and planning from the coaching staff, the team creates strong relationships.

“We have Dr. Bob in the sports psychology department that works with our team on a consistent basis,” Zazenski said. “He tries to formulate those bonds within the team, and he does a great job to help the program with that. I think, overall, our staff just makes a conscious effort to have them become brothers, to understand that there’s a bigger picture other than just playing sports.”

Something the men’s soccer team values is gameday traditions. The team has a dance party inside the locker room before Zazenski talks to the players prior to games at Sentara Park.

“It helps us all get in the zone and feel ready and all to win and, hopefully, go into the NCAA tournament,” freshman forward Dennis Mensah said.

The Dukes are continuing to improve as they prepare for the rest of their season. They’re currently in the midst of CAA play, with their most recent win against Delaware on Saturday. JMU will take on University of North Carolina Wilmington on Saturday at 7 p.m. in Sentara Park.

CONTACT Madie Hricik at hricikmn@dukes.jmu.edu. For more soccer coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.
By NOAH ZIEGLER
The Breeze

In the midst of CAA football, JMU travels to face a revamped William & Mary team playing its homecoming game. The Dukes have already taken down a team on its homecoming, defeating Stony Brook 45-38 in overtime.

**1. On the rise: Preview of W&M**

This isn’t the same William & Mary team the Dukes have faced in recent years. The Tribe haven’t posted a winning season since 2015, which was also the last time they defeated JMU. William & Mary went 1-11-2 from 2016-18 and currently sits at 2-4 (0-2 CAA). However, two of those losses came to FBS opponents: a 52-17 loss to Virginia and 19-7 decision to East Carolina. In the midst of CAA football, JMU head coach Curt Cignetti knows what it takes to bring a program to national prominence as he seeks to build a successful program.

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**Coming off a bye week, the Tribe will have had two weeks to prepare here for our fans will be exciting.”**

**2. Coach’s corner: Different team**

JMU head coach Curt Cignetti knows this isn’t the same William & Mary team he’s faced in recent years. He stated his team would have to have a good week of practice before it enters a tough environment at Zable Stadium.

**The past few weeks have been brutal for JMU. A tough travel schedule on top of playing multiple ranked teams will take a toll on any team. However, JMU’s schedule has been exceptionally tough. Following its trip to Williamsburg, Virginia, JMU will have traveled over 2,500 miles in four weeks.**

**“We play nine straight games before we’re off. That’s not easy to do; it’s hard. It’s not easy to go on the road three straight times against quality opponents, then come back and play the fifth-ranked team in America,” Cignetti said. “Hey, it’s football. We’ve got to strap ‘er up and get er done.”**

**Fortunately for the Dukes, after they take on the Tribe, they have three consecutive home games before ending the season with a trip to Rhode Island. With adversity caused by a difficult schedule, it’ll prepare JMU when postseason play comes around.**

**For the Tribe, Mathis’ capabilities as a running quarterback emulates the play of JMU redshirt senior quarterback Ben DiNucci. When Anderson comes in, it allows the Tribe offense to be multi-dimensional, which could cause trouble for the Dukes’ defense. “It’s a different kind of offense. They really stress you, stretch the field and stretch your perimeter,” Cignetti said. “We’re going to have to do a really good job on defense.”**

In Cignetti’s early looks at William & Mary, he noted that the Tribe use bubble screens to get the ball toward the sidelines and spread the defense, paving the way to attack the middle of the field. With JMU boasting a stout rush defense, the QB duo of Anderson and Mathis will have to rely on the aerial game to compete with JMU.

**3. Player’s perspective: Preparing for another test**

William & Mary’s offense doesn’t light up the scoreboard, but its diverse style makes opposing defenders stay mentally prepared. For senior defensive lineman John Daka and the rest of the defense, they’re preparing for a few trick plays that could catch the Dukes off guard.

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**4. Editors’ input: Another homecoming heartbreak**

The game will be closer than many expect. As Cignetti mentioned at O’Neill’s Grill on Monday, if one looks at the scores from William & Mary this season, there’s a significant improvement from past years. However, it won’t be enough. JMU’s offense is finding its stride around.

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The Tribe has posted a winning season since 2015, which was also the last time they defeated JMU. William & Mary went 1-11-2 from 2016-18 and currently sits at 2-4 (0-2 CAA). However, two of those losses came to FBS opponents: a 52-17 loss to Virginia and 19-7 decision to East Carolina. In the midst of CAA football, JMU head coach Curt Cignetti knows what it takes to bring a program to national prominence as he seeks to build a successful program.

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“They do a lot of gimmick plays. They do a lot of plays that has the defense thinking a lot,” Daka said. “We’re gonna be on our toes a lot; we just have to be sharp with everything we see we got to trust our eyes and our trust our teammates.”

In the last two games, the Dukes have defeated the Tribe by a combined score of 97-14. Under a new offensive scheme, JMU will have to prepare for a brand-new playbook presented by London and his coaching staff.

On top of the fact it’s William & Mary’s homecoming, it’s an in-state rivalry that has seen competitive contests in the past. JMU leads the all-time series 24-17 and hasn’t lost to the Tribe since 2015. However, with a revitalized program, the Tribe are ready to rejuvenate the rivalry.

“They’re gonna bring everything they’ve got because it’s a big rivalry game,” junior offensive lineman Liam Fornadel said. “They’re not going to let up. I think we all know that it’s just going to be another heartfield game.”

CONTACT Noah Ziegler at breezesports@gmail.com. For more football coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.
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**Event details:**
https://events.lib.jmu.edu/event/5644210

**Conference schedule:**

**Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle**

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

![Crossword Puzzle](image)

Check your answers at BreezeJMU.org

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Sharing Space

FUNDRAISING IDEAS FOR STUDENT GROUPS
Sell custom items with your art or logo in a structured, quick, easy program. Email campustcustom@gmail.com or call 540-433-3734.

Equestrians!

Service Projects
Looking for a part-time job that fits your flexible schedule? Do you like watching sports events? If so, find out more and apply online for the City’s Field Trip Driver position: https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/employment. EOE.

Equipment Needed
Community Garden Needs Help! We need help with our ongoing community garden. We have a great community garden that is growing! We need help with watering, weeding, planting and more.

Equestrians!

FREE

Desk and shelf unit for sale

Caring & Sharing Benefit Concert
A concert to benefit Walk to End Alzheimer’s, team Hope for a Cure. Sunday, Oct. 20, 3 p.m., Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. Enjoy duos, trios, quartets, poetry reading, interpretive movement, an Alzheimer’s Association speaker, and audience participation in the final song. Donations are appreciated at the concert or online: http://act.alz.org/goto/mkadams.

Contemplative Worship Service
Contemplative Worship Service weekly on Sundays at 8 pm at Community Mennonite Church in the fellowship hall. Come deepen your everyday connection to God, yourself and the community through healing, action, and contemplation. The service will include silence, embodied practice, and a space that welcomes and affirms everyone.

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Housing

Duplex for Lease
Lovely 3BR 2 BA duplex, within walking distance of EMS and EMU. Interior just painted! Spacious MBA suite, cathedral ceilings in LR an DR, large kitchen with breakfast nook. Fenced in back yard with gorgeous country views! 540-487-0861

For Sale

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COUNTDOWN TO EARTH DAY
APRIL 22, 2020
JOIN THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT
earthday.org/mobilizeU  #EARTHRISE  #EarthDay2020