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C-SPAN bus visits campus

Students Skype live broadcast from C-SPAN bus

BY BILL WYATT

You won't find any C-SPAN programs atop the weekly Nielsen ratings; however, when nine JMU students had the opportunity to appear on the network's morning call-in show, most jumped at the opportunity.

"I immediately knew this was an opportunity I couldn't pass up," says Troy Ehardt ('13), a public policy and administration major. "I became familiar with C-SPAN's *Washington Journal* series after my first semester, when I was waking up at the crack of dawn to start my early Intro to American Government class. I began to receive great insight from knowledgeable [C-SPAN] guests and was able to bring the things I learned to class."

JMU students participated in the network's Feb. 20 *Washington Journal* program via Skype from C-SPAN's bus, which was parked in front of Wilson Hall. The political science, public policy and administration, and international affairs majors asked questions of the morning's on-air guest, Bloomberg TV's Megan Hughes. Each student was given the opportunity to pose a question to Hughes, a veteran Washington reporter. Questions covered issues including gun control, campaign finance, budget sequestration and immigration reform.

Meg Durcan ('13), after interning behind the camera at C-SPAN, got a feel for what it was like to be on the other side of the camera. "This experience gave me great insight into working in the field of broadcast journalism. Even though it was only a few seconds, the opportunity to practice being on air is rare and valuable no matter what career one chooses," Durcan says.

But the experience also helped another student rule out broadcast journalism as a potential career. Senior international affairs major Carolyn Payne ('14) says, "My experience with the C-SPAN bus made me realize that I never want to be on camera for a living. It really showcased the importance of public speaking skills and that GCOM is no joke!"

The C-SPAN bus visited JMU as a part of the network's nationwide tour to promote its series on U.S. first ladies.

* Political Science – www.jmu.edu/polisci



Students from the JMU Department of Political Science Skype a live broadcast of *Washington Journal* from the C-SPAN bus on campus.



Department of Engineering

Engineering students set world record with electric motorcycle

BY ERIC GORTON ('86, '09M)

Engineering students gained hands-on experience as part of a team that set a world record for crossing the United States with an electric vehicle.

On June 3, a 1966 Norton Atlas motorcycle fitted with battery packs and monitoring equipment tested by JMU students left Jacksonville, Fla., for a 2,500-mile trek to Santa

Monica Pier in California. The motorcycle, ridden by former AMA Superbike champion Thad Wolff, completed the crossing in three and a half days (84.5 hours).

The JMU students, under the guidance of Robert Prins, professor of engineering, tested batteries and built a harness to attach the batteries to monitoring equipment. One



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