Botany Buffs
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Visit Darwin's Living Lab

By Pey Pey Oh
news editor

Hence, both in space and time, we seem to be brought somewhat near to that great fact, that mystery of mysteries - the first appearance of new beings on earth.

Origin of the Species (1859)
Charles Darwin

Since opening JMU's Arboretum two years ago, director Norlyn Bodkin has seen over 25,000 visitors tour the university's facility for the study of trees and plants.

This pleased Dr. Bodkin, who also serves as a biology professor here, but he saw the arboretum as more than just a place where plants are housed.

This summer Bodkin began what he hopes will be a series of field trips of international travel. His first stop: the Galapagos Islands - the living laboratory of Charles Darwin.

"The arboretum is not just a place for plants, it's going to involve many types of activities," Bodkin said. "Since it involves natural history studies, we're going to promote field trips in natural history, in our own country and in foreign countries."

For 1989, a trip to Burren on the west coast of Ireland is planned. But on June 3, Bodkin and 11 others went on a two-week trip to the birthplace of Darwin's Origin of the Species.

The Galapagos Islands is where Darwin developed his theory of natural selection and evolution. "This is the area that gave mankind a different view of himself and his origins," said Bodkin.

The trip was open to "anyone who is interested in getting out of their own little sphere." Response was so good that there was a waiting list.

For Dr. Vernon Seguin, associate professor of marketing, and his wife, Jan, the chance to go to the Galapagos was something they didn't want to miss.

"We've traveled all over the world except the Galapagos, because it seems to be a hard place to get to," said Seguin. "This trip was beyond our expectations. We got a chance to go ashore and look at all the animals and birds."

The group flew from Quito, Ecuador to the island of San Cristobal in the Galapagos where they were met by a guide from the Darwin Research Center. They spent the next two weeks island-hopping on a houseboat named - not surprisingly - The Darwin.

Twelve people, including Bodkin and the Seguins, flew to Ecuador June 3rd. Six were undergraduates and the rest of the group included the president of the local bird watchers club, a Broadway High School See GALAPAGOS page 5>

Clutching Maps And Folders...

By Susan L. Jones
managing editor

The abundance of bright red, white and blue folders and unfolded campus maps is a dead giveaway. It's freshman orientation time at JMU.

Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for the next few weeks, incoming freshmen and their parents can be seen - folders and maps clutching securely in hand - roaming campus in search of uncertain destinations.

But campus destinations aren't the only thing these students and parents are unsure of. With freshman year quickly approaching, many of them are nervous about how they'll adjust to the experience that lies ahead.

"I guess my biggest worry is that I won't have a set schedule," said Melissa Carman of Arlington. "I won't be used to it so I might lose track of my studies."

Ray Scheppach, also from Arlington, is concerned about study habits too. "In high school if you had a test on Friday, you just studied on Thursday night," he said. "But here, I think you're going to have to keep up with it a lot more than that."

Marc Zodet, from Lancaster, Penn., is more concerned about fitting in and being accepted by the upperclassmen. "Knowing where I'm going and finding out how the upperclassmen are going to treat us," he said, are his two main worries.

Rhonda Cunningham, a transfer student from Newport News, said she's only worried about "getting out of bed and trying to get to class on time."

"Oh, and also walking up these hills," she said with a laugh.

Ted Tremain, from Richmond, said his biggest worry is the "freshman fifteen," - that unavoidable weight gain freshman are warned about.

Being from out of state, Mark Hershey of Long Island, N.Y., said meeting new people is what

See FRESHMEN page 2>
Freshmen

(Continued from page 1)

worries him most. "Since he's not from Virginia," his father, interjected, "he won't know anyone down here, so that's probably his biggest fear - the unknown."

But out-of-state students aren't the only ones who worry about meeting new people. Many Virginian students also are nervous about it.

Ironically, though, many of the freshmen who mentioned it as one of their biggest worries also ranked it among the things they're most looking forward to about entering college.

"It's one of those things you're simultaneously worried and excited about going through," said Krista Laker of Fairfax. "You know it's going to be scary, but you also know it'll end up being worth it."

Partying, Hershey admits, is one of the main things he's looking forward to about college.

But Tremain said he's excited about getting a chance to assume more responsibility. "I'm looking for an opportunity to get on my own - with no parents involved," he said. "I'm going to have a good time but work hard too."

Some of these students are as unsure of why they chose JMU as they are of what it will be like to attend it.

"I just wound up here somehow," Hershey said, laughing. "My first choice was Cornell, but I was rejected from there."

"Then we came down to visit JMU in the springtime and it was really beautiful," he said. "I loved it. And I got into the Honors Program here so that helped too."

Carmen had visited JMU many times before time to choose a college, so that helped her with her decision. "I came here in seventh, eighth and tenth grade for the Spring Swing Thing sponsored by the music department," she said. "From that, I became affiliated with the campus and liked it, so here I am."

Cunningham said she chose JMU because she'd heard a lot of good things about it and liked it's growing reputation. "And, besides, I really like purple and gold a lot," she said jokingly. But whatever their reason for choosing JMU, students agreed that orientation is a big help in becoming more familiar with the school.

During each two-day session, freshmen are offered guided bus tours of campus, special interest meetings to acquaint them with JMU clubs and activities, academic planning sessions with freshmen advisors before their first experience with registration, and planned social events to encourage opportunities to meet with other freshmen.

 Adriane Harrison, a rising junior at JMU and one of 16 student orientation assistants, said the dance they have on the first night of each session is usually successful.

 "We've had a little problem with JMU students who are already here trying to get in," she said. "Other than that, though, it seems to go really well. The freshmen dance and talk and meet each other."

Another part of orientation freshmen seem to enjoy, according to Harrison, is the session where they're allowed to speak freely with the assistants.

"They ask a lot about alcohol," she said. "That's the most common one among the kids. Stuff like where is it? How do I get to it? And with that, we're pretty upbeat."

---

A freshman learns the feeling of a closed class.

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The Breeze, Summer 1988

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The Breeze will be published once a week, on Thursdays, during the six-week summer term.
So Why Are You At School In The Summer?

By Pecanne Condon
FEATURES EDITOR

Summer school.
Is it punishment for messing up a few too many classes during the regular school year?
Or is it a practical way to get ahead of the crowd on some hard-to-get courses?

Summer school means different things to different people.
Some of JMU's approximately 2,500 students are going to summer school to avoid one more fall semester.
"I changed my major three times and I only needed nine more credit hours, so I'm taking summer classes," said Jeanette Davis, a psychology major.
For transfer students, summer classes may be a good way to make sure they graduate on time. "I transferred in, so I lost credits and I'm trying to make them up," said communication major Laura Cashcart.

JMU Athlete Named Academic All-America

JMU athlete Laurie Johnson was named to the 1988 Academic All-America Women's At-Large team selected by the Association of College Sports Information Directors.
Johnson was one of 10 Division I athletes named to the All-America First Team, and the only representative from Virginia.
Johnson, a member of the JMU track and field team, graduated in May with a degree in German and history and a 4.0 grade point average. She was voted JMU Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year for 1987-88, and previously named to Academics All-State team and the 1987-88 Academic At-Large All-District III team.
She is the first JMU female athlete to earn Academic All-America honors and the third athlete in JMU history to receive first-team honors.

And for Davis, summer school means a chance to meet people - a chance that may not be available in fall or spring.
"I've met a lot of people that I would not have met during regular school," Davis said. "There are not that many geeks in summer school, so you meet a lot of other people."

Warrenton likes the idea that he will not waste any of his year-long lease but will still be able to enjoy the summer with JMU's four-day a week schedule.
Being in Harrisonburg also allows Warrenton to keep his job.
Cashcart said he enjoys the fast-paced schedule, and the idea that she has fewer hours:
"I'm getting credits I need in a short time. I like summer school because I can concentrate on only one class instead of dividing up my time."

For Messina, her stay in Harrisonburg will pay off next year. "I'm also trying to get instant tuition so I have to stay here a full year."

The Breeze, Thursday, July 7, 1988, page 3

NEWS JMU FLASH

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Area residents crowded onto the JMU campus Saturday to attend Fund Fest '88, an Independence Day celebration sponsored by local businesses to raise funds to help build a Cancer Center for Rockingham Memorial Hospital.

Between concerts, 4-year-old Westley Bird (left) enjoys a game with dad. The celebration ended with a fireworks display at 9 p.m.

photos by Lawrence Jackson
JMU Arboretum Open For Public Enjoyment

The JMU Arboretum, a 33-acre lot where trees and plants are grown for scientific and educational purposes, is open daily to the public for self-guided tours from dawn to dusk.

Some of the trees are labeled, and a brochure will soon be published that will serve as a guide through the different areas. Meanwhile, people interested in group tours and special programs can contact JMU's biology department.

The concept for the Arboretum was based on the idea that an appreciation of nature is part of intellectual development. JMU planned a formal dedication May 19. It rained. The raindate for the dedication was May 23. It rained again.

But director Norlyn Bodkin said that the lack of a formal dedication has had no effect on what is going on in the arboretum today. "We have been functioning for the past two years," Bodkin said. At least 15,000 high school and elementary school students have been through the arboretum on field trips. About 12,000 biology students from JMU classes in plant identification, plant ecology and general botany have visited the arboretum. Bodkin often leads these groups himself.

The area is a mix of oak and hickory, landscaped plots of woody and herbaceous plants, forested slopes, a lowland swale, a pond, and a forest savannah that provide habitats to support the diverse species. The arboretum tries to support as many Virginian species as it can.

"Since last October, we've put in 5,200 plants," Bodkin said. "That's about $15,000 worth. Next May there will be really something to show. A whole hillside has been planted with bulbs."

Galapagos

> (Continued from page 1)

teacher, and an instructor at Randolph-Macon Academy.

The biology students who signed up for credit (Bio 3250) on this trip were required to keep a full travel journal and take pictures for a slideshow to present this fall in a public seminar on their field trip to the Galapagos.

Bodkin likes to think that his trip was intellectually stimulating, even allowing himself to make a small comparison to Darwin's visit.

"He did it for five weeks and had an effect on human thought," he said. "We did it for two weeks and it certainly had an effect on our human thought.

"It was some kind of trip for someone who has taught for 30 years, to finally get to see the things I had been teaching in various aspects of my classes," he said.

"It's a fantastic place, botanically," said Bodkin. "I have a picture of myself standing next to a 35 foot tree cactus. In Virginia, the only kind there is, is the prickly pear, which grows along the ground."

The islands are located 600 miles west of Ecuador in the Pacific Ocean and its animals and plants are unique. Because of their protected status and the lack of predators, the creatures of Galapagos are unusually tame and will allow humans at a close range.

Some, however, are not so friendly to the other species. Blue-footed boobies, for instance, dive for fish in the water. Frigate birds, however, will often "dive-bomb" the boobies and steal their fish.

But the action wasn't always on the island. On the houseboat, Bodkin said, the group was able to get an incredible view of bottle-nose dolphins, which leapt and swam alongside the houseboat, and a killer-whale.

"It was some kind of trip to finally get to see things I had seen teaching in my classes."

Norlyn Bodkin
Biology Professor

Other sea animals, however, were more friendly. "We swam and snorkled with sea lions around a number of islands and they put on quite a display for us," said Bodkin.

On San Salvador Island, the group climbed the 3,620 foot Alcedo Volcano to see the wild Galapagos giant tortoises.

On their return to Ecuador, the group took a six-day side trip into the Amazon rain forest at the Cayabena National Park. They journeyed in a 30-foot dugout canoe built by Siona Indians, and one piloted them into the depths of the rain forest. They spent five nights sleeping in hammocks there while exploring with their guide.

Craig Butterbaugh, a business major at JMU who went on the trip "just to do something that was out of my usual routine," said roughing it in the jungle wasn't too bad. "At least we had some facilities. I spoke to a couple who had been on a floating hotel on the river, and I don't think they had the same experience we did."

Ben Miller, a biology major at JMU, was one of the few members of the group who didn't get seasick during the first stage of the trip to the Galapagos. "I like the water and being on a boat," he said. "It was fascinating to get close to the animals on the islands," he said, "but it was frustrating after being there, because in the rain forest you couldn't really get close to the animals."

Bodkin said that the basic rate for the trip was $3,475, including airfare and most of the meals. It covered the major expenses, "if you were willing to rough it."

"This is no 'Love Boat,'" he joked. "But what you get to see is worth every minute of it."
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Randy - I still owe you one. Sara

Chris Carter - you still owe Peakwitz a story, so get your butt down here (you can run but you can't hide) Susan

Lawrence - “I love T.J.”

Debbie - Can I call you now? That busy signal is really annoying. What's the real reason the phone's been off the hook? TE

The vortex swirls - but not here. Bruce, Dana, Randy, Eric. The Shirk quadruplets by Thelma.

Have you hugged - your tree today? To Leigh. Your housemate.

COMICS

Calvin and Hobbes

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Calvin and Hobbes

BOY, IM JUST GOING HIGHER AND HIGHER.

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by Bill Watterson

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Two Named To Board

Robert LaRose and Debra Tomkins have been appointed to the JMU Board of Visitors.

LaRose, of Clifton, and Tomkins, of Chantilly, will serve four-year terms on the board, the official governing body for JMU.

LaRose has served as president of a foundation for development of selected projects in Fairfax County Public Schools.

Tomkins, a 1977 graduate of JMU, is director of media and community affairs for Virginia Power in Fairfax County.

Dinner Theatre Seats Available

The JMU Dinner Theatre has tickets available for both Tom Jones’ “The Fantasticks” and Neil Simon’s “Fools.” Tickets are still available for showings on July 10, 14, 15, 18, 21, 26; and Aug. 1 and 2.

Evening performances are $16 for adults and $12 for children under 13. Evening meals begin at 6:30, followed by the performance at 8.

Sunday brunch performances are $14 for adults and $10 for children. Brunch begins at 12:15 p.m., followed by the performance at 1:30.

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