BRIDGING THE GAP

The Bluestone 2015
James Madison University
WE ALL COME FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS,
WE ALL HAVE DIFFERENT STORIES AND VALUES,
BUT JMU IS WHAT TIES US TOGETHER.
WE ARE ALL INTERCONNECTED THROUGH THE UNIVERSITY.
JMU IS A UNIFYING FORCE.
IT BRIDGES THE GAPS ACROSS RACE, ETHNICITY, GENDER, RELIGION,
POLITICS, SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION.
THIS UNIVERSITY HAS MADE IT A MISSION TO ENCOURAGE
US TO PUSH BOUNDARIES AND BREAK OUT OF OUR
COMFORT ZONES
NOT JUST ACADEMICALLY
BUT IN OUR SOCIAL
LIVES AS WELL.
ALTHOUGH MANY
OF US CANNOT SAY
FOR CERTAIN WHERE WE
WILL BE HEADING
AFTER COLLEGE, WE CAN
BE CERTAIN THAT
THIS INSTITUTION
HAS PREPARED
US FOR WHATEVER
LIFE HAS IN STORE.
WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE A HOME HERE.
ALL ROADS LEAD BACK TO JMU.
Rap artist Juicy J had the audience dancing and grooving to the beat as he stole the show at UPB's spring concert.

Nicole Byer and Alice Wetterlund gave students giggle fits when they performed in Wilson Hall. Read on to hear some of the outrageous jokes they made.

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Some wanted to steal a brick, others wanted to streak the quad. What's on your JMU bucket list?

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JMU 144

BUCKET LIST

Some wanted to steal a brick, others wanted to streak the quad. What's on your JMU bucket list?
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The members of the Equestrian Club were in it for more than just a love of horses - they also enjoyed giving back to the community through their involvement with the Ride with Pride program.
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The club gymnastics team won a national title in 2014. Find out how they were able to make gains on and off the floor.
The College of Education included the interdisciplinary liberal studies program.

The College of Visual and Performing Arts included the art education, art history, graphic design, interior architecture, studio art, music and theater and dance programs.

The College of Health and Behavioral Studies included the athletic training, communication sciences and disorders, dietetics, health science, health services administration, kinesiology, nursing, psychology and social work programs.
The College of Science and Mathematics included the astronomy, biology, biochemistry, chemistry, earth science, geology, mathematics, physics and statistics programs.

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ORGANIZATIONS
Some of the organizations featured were the fencing club, science fantasy fiction guild, student government association and alpha kappa delta phi sorority.
The editors shared their thanks and overall feelings about the 2014-2015 yearbook.

The closing section features the thanks, colophon, index, editors' letters and pictures from the JMU Marketing Photography Department.
FEATURES
The American Cancer Society flags blew in the wind showcasing their motto. People walked the track throughout the entire night.

Participants talk while walking along the track. Next to the track there was a center stage where participants could dance.

A participant lights the luminaria before the ceremony. All participants were silent during this ceremony.

Students (and the Duke Dog!) walk around the track in honor of their loved ones who are fighting cancer at JMU's Relay for Life. American Cancer Society raised billions of dollars each year through Relay for Life events.

Participants dedicate the luminarias to their close family members and friends who have passed away from cancer. As each type of cancer was announced, participants walked the track in support.
I love the opportunity to walk for a cause. My grandpa, aunt and uncle all had cancer. Tonight I am walking in celebration of them for fighting off cancer," said junior interdisciplinary liberal studies major Samantha Boyd.

Every year, thousands of people participated in the all-night event, Relay for Life, to support the American Cancer Society. Relay for Life celebrated survivors and remembered those who lost the battle to cancer. It also raised funds and awareness to help save lives.

"Relay truly represents that cancer never sleeps. Throughout the twelve hours, the dark conveys the struggle and the dawn conveys how we can overcome cancer," said junior interdisciplinary liberal studies major Kaylyn Gallagher.

On April 12, 2014, over 2,000 members of the JMU community gathered on Hillside field. Students, families and community members filled the field as the teams assembled along the track to set up camp.

At 6 p.m., the Survivor Walk took place. The walk commemorated all those who were diagnosed with cancer. During the walk, some survivors also shared their stories. Afterwards, all teams started the rotation for the first members to walk the track.

"As of 2014, JMU is the eighth largest collegiate relay and we have raised over $200,000 dollars for the American Cancer Society," Gallagher added. Gallagher is also the fundraising chair for Relay for Life at JMU.

Throughout the overnight event, participants ate, played games, watched live entertainment and took part in other fundraising activities.

At dusk, Relay for Life held a quieter event called the Luminaria Ceremony. The entire track was lined with paper lanterns, or luminarias. Participants sat close behind them.

Each luminaria was personalized with a name, drawing or photograph to memorialize a friend or family member who had been affected by cancer. Luminarias were also lit to support participants. During this ceremony, participants honored survivors, fighters and the memories of the people who passed away by walking around the track.

"When I was two years old, my father was diagnosed with cancer and they gave him ten years to live," said junior health sciences major Sarah Merkin. "He lived for eleven years, and after he passed away I decided that I was going to make a change and I have been able to do that through Relay for Life."

Relay for Life at JMU epitomized the spirit of community as everyone came together to find hope that one day the world would become cancer-free.
STAY TRIPPY

JUICY J PERFORMS HITS TO A HYPED-UP AUDIENCE
Students were eager to sing, dance and "Stay Fly" when they jammed out at the Juicy J concert in the spring in the spring of 2014. Juicy J came to JMU for the University Program Board spring concert with Sage the Gemini as his opening act. Juicy J had been in the music industry for decades, starting out with the rap group, Three 6 Mafia in the early 1990s, while Sage the Gemini had recently climbed the charts with hit singles like "Red Nose" and "Gas Pedal."

Even though the concert began a little off-schedule and there were some brief difficulties getting his music to play, Sage the Gemini gave a solid performance and kept the audience hyped up by singing songs off of his latest album, "Remember Me."

These songs included "Down On Your Luck," "Red Nose," "Give it Up" and "Gas Pedal," which he performed twice. The California Bay Area born singer performed with a DJ and a dancer.

Juicy J also included some Three 6 Mafia hits in his 45-minute-long set. These hits included "Slob On My Knob," "Poppin' My Collar," "Sipping On Syrup" and "Stay Fly."

Senior Kristin Catterton had been fan of Juicy J since the rapper was a part of Three 6 Mafia. "I like his flow and his music is always good to dance to," said Catterton.

He also performed more recent solo hits like "We Still in This Bitch," "Showout," "23," and "Show Me." All of these songs featured fellow artists like B.o.B, T.I., Big Sean, Miley Cyrus, Mike Will Made It, Wiz Khalifa and Chris Brown.

Catterton's favorite song performed was "Scholarship" because it was fun to dance to and had a good beat.

Even though she wished his set were longer, Catterton said she would definitely see him in concert again.

At one point, Juicy J attempted to bring female students on stage to dance, but security would not allow it.

Junior Sara Coit went to the concert as way to hang out with her friends for the night.

"I attended the concert because I liked the music and also for the social component," said Coit.

Juicy J didn't just perform for the wild JMU students in the Convocation Center on April 24. He embodied the spirit of a true megastar and made it a memorable night for all.

WORDS Courtney Ambrose
PHOTO Rebecca Sullivan
DESIGN Lexi Pointer & Breana Quintero
Juicy J takes a moment to look out at his fans. The rapper made attempts to get the crowd more involved, but was stopped by security.

Students take a break from dancing to pose during the concert. Many students had camped out for tickets to the show.
"I first heard about JMU and one of the things I noticed were the colors: purple and gold. I thought they were really horribly ugly and decided I would never go here. My mom had already booked our visit, so I had to come anyway. We got in on a Thursday night for a Friday morning tour and drove through campus to kill time. From that moment on, I knew I needed to come here. I got in and now my whole wardrobe is purple and gold and I couldn't be happier. The atmosphere is unlike any other school I visited. Everyone is so friendly and truly cares for one another, even with 20,000 plus students."

-Senior Allison Knudsen, psychology major from Mahopac, N.Y.

"I didn't want to come here, but all of my other options didn't pan out the way I planned them to. But those events led me here, for which I am grateful beyond any measure. I wouldn't have any chosen any other school based how much fun I've had and how much I've learned. The community here is the best I've had in my life so far. I didn't choose JMU at first; JMU chose me."

-Junior Bryan Gallagher, geology major from Chesapeake, Va.
"I loved the atmosphere, the people and the vibe the university gave. It felt like home, a place where I saw myself growing as a person, as well as a lifelong student. Other colleges didn’t compare when it came to the education and level of enthusiasm of professors and student body."

-Senior Darko Gorta, international affairs major from Harrisonburg, Va.

"I love the many opportunities it has and I love the beautiful campus. It was my number-one choice because there's a sense of community and everyone is so nice."

-Freshman Jaycie Phonelath, math major from Harrisonburg, Va.

"I love the mountains and JMU had both the major I was interested in and the minor. It has always been my number-one school."

-Junior Nicholas Sydow, communications major from Williamsburg, Va.

"I chose JMU because when I first visited, I was blown away by how nice everyone was and their willingness to help my dad and me with directions and places to eat. It was such a great environment that I knew I wanted to be a part of. JMU was my number-one choice because of the school’s atmosphere and great business school."

-Sophomore Victoria Saul, finance and accounting major from Rockville, Md.
Spring was in bloom and the JMU Dukes celebrated the return of warmer weather by attending the fourth annual spring festival, Madipalooza.

The festival was an all-day affair including performances by Magic Man, The Fighting Jamesons, Ryan Cabrera, Mammoth Indigo, Philosophunk and Bas. The performances took center stage on Festival Lawn and other attractions included a variety of inflatables, free food, prizes and eating contests.

For freshman Rachel Scamaty, this had been a highly anticipated day for much needed distraction from the end-of-the-year stress.

"I've been really excited for Madipalooza because my boyfriend was coming from out of town and it was the last event hosted by James Madison before the end of the semester," Scamaty said.

Students used the festival as an opportunity to showcase their new spring outfits and donning colorful sundresses, bright shorts and crop tops.

"When the weather gets nice, floral prints and pastel colors come out. There was definitely a lot of flowers and skirts at the festival," senior Katlyn Perry said.

The event invited all members of the JMU community. As the last university hosted event, Madipalooza said goodbye to our future graduates and welcomed prospective students. Tour groups held on this day gave potential Dukes an idea of what it was like to be a JMU student.

Jaela Wilson, a future Dukes visiting JMU, said that this weekend gave her the push she needed to feel comfortable and excited about college.

"Visiting JMU showed me how fun and friendly the atmosphere is and it made me more comfortable about my decision on paying my deposit and actually coming here," Wilson said.

The free “Live Like a Boss” T-shirts given out by The Commons, a local apartment complex, were a huge hit at Madipalooza. The line for the shirts started at the festival entrance and wrapped around a few game tables. They had four colors and each disappeared quickly as students snagged them from the table.

The festival came to a close that night with free Fudge Pops, Drumsticks, Ice-cream Sandwiches and Orange Dreamsicles. Madipalooza was an opportunity for students to let off steam before the stress of final exams began. The annual event promised to continue entertaining students for years to come.

WORDS Aleixo Macfie-Hernandez
PHOTO Abigail Short
DESIGN Breanna Young
Students lounge in the sun on Festival Lawn. Other students stood and chanted by the stages to wait for performances.

Students jump around on an inflatble. The line for this game stretched across the Festival Lawn.

Ryan Cabrera performs with his acoustic guitar. Many students enjoyed his performance.

Students eat grilled hotdogs and chat with their friends throughout the day. Other students sit in Festival to stay out of the heat.
"Have you ever put a Snickers bar in your private parts and really let a man eat you out?" asked Nicole Byer as she opened the 2014 University Program Board spring comedy show.

Byer then shifted back to a serious tone and apologized for the mocking southern drawl that she used in her opening line.

"I don't sound like that. I sound more like a basic white girl or a sassy gay man," Byer said.

On March 29, 2014, Byer and Alice Wetterlund, two comedians known for their appearances on MTV's "Girl Code," each performed their 30 minute skits for a massive audience of JMU students and faculty.

To say that students were excited for the comedic duo to start their show was an understatement. Some stood for a half hour in the rain wearing skirts and foregoing raincoats. UPB members said that by the time of the 7 p.m. performance, the show had sold out completely.

Byer focused her skit on topics such as her weight, her ethnicity and her sex life. Her delivery was often blunt and raunchy. She, like many other comedians, used humor to breathe life and light into uncomfortable personal experiences.

Byer recounted one such occasion when she was working at Lane Bryant as a sales associate. She said that a man came up to her, inquiring about what size jeans to buy his wife. The man told Byer that she looked a lot like his wife, who had "legs like tree trunks."

Instead of getting insecure about her weight, Byer resolved that "if tree trunk legs is getting f*cked, I m getting f*cked."

Byer also interacted with the audience. On one occasion, she asked the crowd if anyone would like her to serenade their penis.

Erick Brown, a sophomore intelligence analysis figured, "why not?"

"I thought it would be over really quickly," Brown said. "But she just kept going. I was dying."

"After Byer's smash hit of a performance, Wetterlund took the stage. Her comedic style was completely different from Byer's. She was quirkier and her dry humor was more satirical than her "Girl Code" co-star.

Wetterlund opened by running to the microphone and singing the words "sometimes I hide," at which point she ran across the stage and darted behind a curtain.

Wetterlund joked about the weather, her ex-husband and her love of Disney movies. But she also brought comedy to more serious topics, such as rape and sexual assault.

The self-proclaimed feminist touched on domestic abuse in professional sports, as well as the way women were treated by men at bars and clubs.

"Beer then liquor, never been sicker. Liquor then beer, guess it's OK to sexually assault people," Wetterlund said.

Although both comedians were met with applause and a lot of laughter, Byer appeared to be the crowd favorite.

"I liked Nicole better," said sophomore chemistry major Brenna Walsh. "She was funnier and crazy. Alice seemed nervous."

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"I liked Nicole better," said sophomore chemistry major Brenna Walsh. "She was funnier and crazy. Alice seemed nervous."

UPB Vice President of Marketing and Communications Chantal Johnson thought that the show was a major success.

"I think it ended well. They both had really different styles that could cater to different people. UPB is happy with the result and the high energy throughout the night," Johnson said.

Although the night was fleeting, each member of the audience left knowing that they would be able to look at a Snickers bar the same way again.
Nicole Byer smiles as she jokes about her famous job as a sales associate. Byer used anecdotes from her past to bring humor to her weight.

Alex Wetterlund gleefully jokes about her love of the Disney classic, "The Little Mermaid." Wetterlund talked about how as a child, she would sing "Part of Your World" loudly in social situations.
"We're here, we're queer and we're not going anywhere!" said Madison Equality member and activist, Sarah Hogg.

Hogg attended GayMU, an annual event held by LGBTQ support organization Madison Equality, which kicked off on April 7, 2014. The week that was usually characterized by food, fun, positivity and acceptance received an unusual outpouring of judgment and hate speech on social media as a result of the distribution of a bulk email notifying students of the week’s events.

An anonymous Twitter account, “StraightJMU,” was thought to be the most widely shared source of the hate, posting hurtful and derogatory tweets aimed toward the LGBTQ community at JMU.

Hogg, a senior anthropology major who had been an active member of Madison Equality since her freshman year, did not let the negativity affect her or the atmosphere at each event.

"We’re just staying strong," Hogg said. "We’re not going to engage with the hateful people, we’re just going to be here and be ourselves and we’re not scared."

As the week’s festivities began, it became clear that the majority of the JMU student body did not hold the same hurtful opinions voiced by some. The online outrage fizzled more and more as each event went smoothly, projecting an atmosphere of acceptance rather than hate.

An unmistakable aura of positivity was present Monday and Tuesday as people gathered on the Commons enjoying free food, music and smiles.

On Wednesday, lines stretched almost the entire length of the Commons as students waited to receive free T-shirts that read “Gay? Fine by me.”

Students were encouraged to wear the shirts throughout the week in the hopes that prospective students visiting for Choices would see that JMU is a safe and accepting environment for everyone.

"What we really want to do is show this campus that we are here," Hogg said. "We are important and we’re a part of JMU."

The underlying theme emphasized during the week’s events was the importance of educating the community as well as seeking a stronger presence of support from the straight allies of the LGBTQ community.

WORDS Emily Glisson
PHOTO Abigail Short
DESIGN Veronica Garcia
A student shows off her "Gay? Fine by me." shirt. These T-shirts were handed out for free on the commons.
Last spring, the class of 2014 donned their mortarboards and wiped away tears as the processional began. Whether they walked the stage on the Quad, Godwin Field or the alumni garden near Rose Library, these Dukes were finishing a chapter of their lives.

When the purple gowns came off and graduates entered the real world, many planned to stay connected to the campus they had called home for four or more years.

“I cannot begin to explain how much I miss JMU, the atmosphere, the spirit, the Quad, the hills that kept my calves tight and the wonderful door-holding people,” Norah Curtis, a 2014 graduate of the public policy and administration program said in an email. “I can’t wait until Homecoming!”

4,032 Dukes graduated in either May or August of 2014, according to the Office of the Registrar. These men and women went on to do many things following their college career.

Some went back to their hometown to grow their roots. Some stayed in the Harrisonburg area to start careers close to JMU. However, some began entirely new chapters in new places.

Carly Calhoon graduated with a double major in international business and marketing. After graduation, she started a career as a pay-per-click account manager for Silverback Strategies in Alexandria, Va.

Calhoon said she planned to come back and visit campus as much as possible.

“The campus is gorgeous, the people are kind and the food is YUM,” Calhoon said in an email. “What’s not to miss?”

JMU always made a point of welcoming graduates back with open arms when they started to miss the friendly atmosphere.

“[Graduation] was kind of a different feeling from most of my friends,” Rider said.

Rider stayed involved on campus as a graduate student. In addition to attending football games and JMU-sponsored events, she became a member of the Graduate Student Association, a club formed to serve the needs of the university’s graduate students.

“I think that helps me be a part of the community more,” Rider said.

Dukes who left campus following the ceremony also found ways to stay involved.

Curtis came back to visit during the fall semester and fondly remembered sitting on the new deck of Dave’s Taverna watching the traffic on Port Republic Road.

“It doesn’t have the best view theoretically, but when you’re a Duke and haven’t visited Harrisonburg in a long time, Port Road is like seeing the Grand Canyon,” Curtis said.

While graduation may have seemed like the end of an era, it was only the beginning. JMU would always hold a special place in the hearts of those who bled purple.

WORDS Elizabeth Wertz
PHOTO Hannah Adams
DESIGN Ana Garcia & Abigail Short
ABOVE 2014 Alumnae Rachel Lam, Lauren Hale, Ashleigh Rigenavongse, Kaci Lassiter pose for a picture at commencement. After the ceremony, many students would go out to eat with their families.
Students enjoy the new dining options in the Student Success Center. Some of the new options involved being served food at the tables instead of waiting at the counter.

The first floor of the Student Success Center provides the ideal study place. Each desk has an individual outlet for charging computers.
THE EPIC CENTER

NEW BUILDING ON CAMPUS UPS THE EDUCATION ANTE

For students, the road to success was often long and uncertain, but fortunately for those students at JMU, that road became a little easier to navigate. The Student Success Center (SSC) first opened its doors at the start of the fall semester in 2014, and it quickly became a hub for anything and everything a student might need. From enticing eateries to career and academic planning services, the SSC seemed to have it all.

"I think the best part is that now students have a centralized location for everything they need," said Danielle Brown, a senior media arts and design major who works at the center’s Information and Guest Services desk.

As home to almost every student services center on campus like Card Services, all of the learning centers and Health Center, the SSC provided a one-stop solution to any problem a student might encounter. Need a new JACard? Go to SSC. Craving Dunkin’ Donuts? Go to SSC. You guessed it: the SSC had what you needed.

Gillian Dukoff, a sophomore media arts and design major, remembered the positive experience she had during her first visit at the Center. "I went to the writing center to get help on a paper and the fact that I could do that and then just walk down the hall and get Dunkin’ was so awesome," Dukoff said. "It’s a great place to study, too."

Construction of the building spanned years and the final cost reached millions, but it proved to be well worth it as the functionality and design of the Center catered to student and staff needs.

"Everything is laid out really nicely. It’s like organized in a way that makes it easy for everyone to navigate," Brown said.

The SSC was also home to new “EPIC” classrooms. Standing for Enhancing Pedagogy through Innovative Classrooms, the EPIC rooms featured wall-to-wall writeable white board surfaces and multiple projection points, which made both teaching and learning more effective.

“I think the new classrooms are great, plus it doesn’t hurt that you can now go straight from class and get help for that class in the same building,” Brown said.

While these new rooms were a subject of excitement for faculty, students seemed to be most thrilled about the newest dining options.

Bistro 1908, located on the Center’s second floor, had an Italian option with pizza and pasta as well as chophouse, which served burgers and sandwiches in a sit-down style restaurant atmosphere.

“I like Chophouse because it’s kind of nice to like, sit down and have someone bring you your food in the middle of a busy day,” Dukoff said.

The Student Success Center proved to be a valuable addition to the campus for both faculty and students alike. From studying to socializing over coffee to getting help with career plans, the Student Success Center was truly a one-stop shop for the tools needed for success.

WORDS Emily Glisson
PHOTO Danielle Lerer
DESIGN Leah Jacobs
In the fall of 2014, a brand new way for students and faculty to get their coffee fix rolled onto JMU's campus and into the hearts of those far from Rose, Carrier and Market One: the Starbucks truck. The self-contained coffeehouse on wheels traveled around campus, from Festival to Bridgeforth Stadium, serving students and professors alike.

History major Nathan Scholz, who graduated from JMU in spring 2014, described working in the truck as being “really different than other service locations, because everything’s a lot smaller. If we run out of stuff, we have to actually go physically get it.” Scholz himself, along with the truck’s other supervisors, actually drove the truck back and forth from E-Hall at various points in the day to restock and prepare for the next wave of customers.

“It’s usually really busy in the morning because there are a lot of classes over here in Showker, but in the afternoons, it’s pretty slow,” said Scholz. “It usually goes with class schedules, so between classes, we look out for more people.”

Workers in the mobile coffeehouse even kept a copy of the daily class schedule on hand, to know when to expect the arrival of more students craving their daily pick-me-up.

Margaret Fogarty, a sophomore communications major, enjoyed the truck’s presence on campus, specifically in its usual spot out in front of Bridgeforth Stadium.

“It’s nice because you don’t have to go all the way to Carrier or farther away places when you park in the deck,” said Fogarty. “Right in the morning, when I get here at like 7:30-ish, it’s really convenient to just get [some coffee] right before my 8 a.m. class.”

The Starbucks truck was also a beacon of light to those who lived farther away from JMU’s various coffee-serving locations.

“I live over here [in Lakeside], so it’s really convenient,” said Brandon Meyers, a freshman accounting major. “I usually come at the same time everyday, in the afternoon, when there isn’t much of a crowd.”

The arrival of the Starbucks truck served a lot more than just coffee—it also brewed a fresh, new convenience that made the daily routine of faculty and students run significantly smoother.

“It’s made my day much easier because I park next to the stadium, so I can just, like, go right across the street,” said Emily Poelma, a sophomore health services administration major. “Sometimes there’s a big line, but it’s faster than Carrier.”

The Starbucks truck was received warmly by JMU in its first year of operation and in turn helped to beat the daily grind of student life.

WORDS Michelle Criqui
PHOTO Selena St. Andre
DESIGN Leah Jacobs
Sophomore communication sciences and disorders major Nicole Goff cools off with an iced mocha. The truck traveled between east campus and Bridgforth Stadium on a daily basis.

The truck waits at its station next to the Athletic Center. The only time there was no line for coffee was during classes.
Once a Duke, always a Duke.

This saying held a special place in the hearts of the students here at James Madison University, especially those with alumni in their families. For these students, JMU became more than just a university, but a part of their family history, lending a whole new meaning to the phrase "bleeding purple."

Attending JMU was definitely a family affair for junior nursing major Amanda Gartrell. Her maternal grandmother, Diane Lane, graduated from what was then known as Madison College in 1965 with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics. Two of her children, Kendra and Kevin Lane, also went on to become Dukes, graduating in 2002 and 2006, respectively.

"Back in the 60s, there was only the Bluestone area," said Lane. "Back campus was just land. We used to lie out and sunbathe on that hill, and when it snowed, we would go 'tray riding' on food trays we took from D-Hall which had just opened my junior year."

Madison College was an all-girls school, which had a strict curfew: 10 p.m. on weekdays and midnight on weekends. They also had a dress code, which required the women to wear stockings every day.

"Sometimes, my friends and I would draw lines on our legs to look like stocking seams when we went out," Lane said.

Gartrell was surprised to hear about these strict regulations from her grandmother’s time at JMU, which seemed so constricting in comparison to how things are today. Even though massive changes have been made in the past fifty years, when it came to their favorite part of JMU, both Gartrell and her grandmother said that it was all about the atmosphere.

"The people were definitely the best thing about JMU," Lane said. "I loved getting the opportunity to meet people from all different walks of life."

Gartrell agreed with her grandmother. "It’s just an extremely friendly campus," Gartrell said.

Lauren Fariss, a sophomore writing, rhetoric and technical communication major, had a similar experience with her father and uncle. Her father, Keith Fariss, graduated from JMU with a degree in marketing in 1982, and her uncle Mark Fariss, graduated with the same degree in 1977. At that point, the university had been coeducational for less than 20 years.

"When my brother Mark went here in the late 70s the ratio of girls to boys was extremely high," said Keith. "I used to kid that even though there were so many girls, he still couldn’t get a date."

Despite all of these changes JMU had endured through the years, one thing definitely had not changed: the extremely friendly, social atmosphere around campus. It was no wonder Dukes alumni wanted to pass on this remarkable tradition from generation to generation, keeping their purple pride all in the family.

"Football games were fun because we didn’t have the big stadium," said Keith. "People used to just sit on the hill, hang out and watch the game."

Fariss and her father agreed on their favorite part of the university: the tight-knit community.

"It’s the people," Lauren said. "We really are like a big community. You can say ‘hi’ to someone one time, and then they’ll stop and talk to you every time they see you on campus."

Despite all of the changes JMU had endured through the years, one thing definitely had not changed: the extremely friendly, social atmosphere around campus. It was no wonder Dukes alumni wanted to pass on this remarkable tradition from generation to generation, keeping their purple pride all in the family.

WORDS Michelle Criaui
PHOTO Courtesy of Amanda Gartrell
DESIGN Megan Rzepka
Senior Amanda Gartrell poses with her Aunt Kendra, an alumna of JMU. Gartrell and her family of alumni visited the campus together after she was accepted into the university.

Junior Amanda Gartrell spends time with her aunt in her freshman dormitory. Gartrell enjoyed spending time together on campus.

Junior Amanda Gartrell tailgates with her family during Homecoming of her freshman year. While not all in the photo were alumni of the university, they all supported the purple in her blood.

Junior Amanda Gartrell hangs out with her aunt during a Homecoming game. Gartrell and her family supported JMU in many different areas.
Junior Maurice Palao shows off his sense of style outside of Java City. Palao attempted to stay on the edge of the fashion scene.

Senior Autumn Morowitz poses on the Quad. Morowitz enjoyed dressing both for comfort and looks.

Freshman Joanna McNelly shows off her outfit. McNelly took inspiration from multiple styles in order to put together her own ensemble.
no secret that college students liked to be comfortable. More often than not, fashion was not the first thing on students’ minds when getting ready for an 8 a.m. class. When observing the university’s campus, there was no shortage of active wear and pajama-esque clothing to be seen.

However, upon closer examination, it was apparent that some very fashionable students attended JMU. On any given day, there would be an overabundance of yoga pants and athletic shorts on campus. But for every person wearing these items, there were two more people in trendy and put-together outfits. JMU emphasized the diversity among the student body and personal style was a great example of the assortment of personalities that existed here.

Freshman communications major Joanna McNally described her style as “definitely Bohemian with influences from New York fashion.”

The women of JMU weren’t the only ones who cared about fashion. Whether on a bus or in a dining hall, a student was likely to run into countless well-dressed guys, especially in fall when sweaters, plaid shirts and khaki pants took over.

Junior computer information systems major Kevin Love described his sense of style as “preppy, classy and presentable.”

Though the preppy style was popular among JMU males, junior communications major Maurice Palao represented a more cutting edge side of men’s fashion. Palao could often be seen sporting a snapback and a pair of headphones around his neck. Despite his keen fashion sense, he stressed the importance of not only looking good, but feeling good as well.

“I dress for comfort, but I want to look cool, too,” Palao said.

In fact, many students felt that comfort played a significant role in their outfit choices.

Senior media arts and design major Autumn Morowitz tried to find a balance between fashion and comfort.

“If it’s cold out, I’m probably going to wear workout pants and a T-shirt. If it’s nice out, I’ll put in effort to dress up,” Morowitz said.

Morowitz also disclosed that gained style inspiration from Beyoncé, Blake Lively and Selena Gomez: three stars with impeccable street fashion whose casual styles in 2014 usually consisted of sophisticated bold prints and a pair of jeans.

On a rainy day, it may have been harder to see the true creativity and style that passed through the JMU campus, but that didn’t mean it wasn’t there. Comfort sometimes took precedence over looking stylish – a small price to pay for success and a short morning routine. But when the weather was nice and spirits were high, there were always Dukes out to show off their unique styles.

WORDS Julia Lewis
PHOTO Breanna Young
DESIGN Atika Chadha
FROGS AND OPAs HELPED FRESHMEN AS THEY JOIN THE JMU COMMUNITY

Last spring, most JMU students said goodbye to campus until the next fall. However, some opted for a different course. Orientation Peer Advisors or OPAs spent most of their summers welcoming freshmen to JMU and helping them take the first crucial steps in their college journey.

For junior Michael DiMezza, working as an OPA was an opportunity "to learn more about the university, be a part of the university and give back to it.”

During Summer Springboard, OPAs guided freshmen around campus as they received their JACards and met with their advisers to set up their first college course schedules. By walking around campus, meeting fellow students and eating lunch in the dining halls, Summer Springboard was a chance for students to get accustomed to campus before they moved in at the start of the fall semester.

DiMezza recalled how welcome he felt when he came to JMU’s campus during his own Summer Springboard and wanted to provide a similar experience for the freshman he interacted with.

A big part of the OPA training experience was learning about all of JMU’s organizations and resources. This ensured that the OPAs would be able to serve as informative sources for incoming students and be able to impart knowledge about all different aspects of the university. DiMezza encouraged the freshmen he met to get involved right away at JMU and to be open to meeting new people.

Working as an OPA made the campus feel smaller for DiMezza, who became close to his fellow OPAs. The OPAs returned to campus in August for the orientation week, where an important OPA task was to oversee the First Year Orientation Guides.

JMU’s orientation week, called 1787 August Orientation, was a great opportunity for freshmen to adjust to their new environment. FROG Week, as the students referred to it, was from August 19 to August 24. Starting on August 19, more than 4,000 freshmen arrived at JMU, hoping to find a new place to call home.

It was a time of great nerves, excitement, hopes, worries and uncertainty. Approximately 300 FROGs were each assigned to a group of freshmen to assist them during their transition to college. The FROGs’ first task was to help with move-in day, which certainly eased the process for parents and students alike.

FROGs made the new students feel comfortable and welcome to JMU’s campus and sought to foster positive relationships in their group.

Sophomore Jonas Albro and junior Sarah Heider, worked together as FROGs in the Wayland dormitory.

“There’s something magical about the yellow shirts,” Albro joked.

An important responsibility of the FROGs was to keep up the morale and enthusiasm throughout the week and during all of the various activities.

“You’re really not like a camp counselor,” Heider explained, which was a common misconception that some students have about the position.

Albro described his role as a FROG as a “hybrid friend mentor.”

Heider and Albro continued to be important resources for their group long after orientation week had finished. The two visited Wayland frequently to check in on their group. The freshmen knew that they could contact their FROGs for advice throughout the year.

FROG Week impacted both freshmen and upperclassmen alike. Heider and Albro both emphasized the friendships they formed with their fellow FROGs, OPAs and of course, their tadpoles.

“It opened up my whole view of JMU,” Heider said.

FROGs were a diverse group of students with various backgrounds who worked together to make this week successful. The two encouraged students to apply for this unique and life-changing experience.
Junior Sarah Heider and sophomore Jonas Albro try to find the quickest route to East Campus by using the Mappy. Albro and Heider started their journey to East Campus from Wilson Hall.

Heider and Albro show off their cool T-shirts. These shirts were tradition for FROGs.
Two star-crossed sets of fans were in disagreement over whether or not Pepsi products should have been added to vending machines across campus. Regardless of stance, everyone at James Madison University was aware of the controversial switch from Coca-Cola to Pepsi products.

Whether the choice to make the change was due to monetary reasons or simply because President Jonathan R. Alger seemed to prefer the refreshing taste of Pepsi to that of its famous competitor, the change came as a surprise to much of the student population when they returned to JMU in the fall.

"I'm pissed," said sophomore history major Paul Skudlarek. "No more Pibb Xtra, which was always super great on a study session when I was drained."

Skudlarek's friend, sophomore health sciences major Conor McGovern, agreed.

"There are some days where I'm like, 'I really wish I had a Powerade right now,' but I can't," McGovern said.

Pepsi products became available at JMU on July 1, 2014, according to Pepsi Sales Manager Jesse Yowell.

Yowell said that Pepsi was eager to invest in the university, and the competition was fierce.

"Coke was aggressive, and we felt we needed to be aggressive, too," Yowell said. "It was a huge win for Pepsi."

Pepsi took full advantage of their 10-year contract with JMU. The company advertised with Head Football Coach Everett Withers and released a special Pepsi can just for JMU football.

According to Yowell, Pepsi did a lot of things for students that Coke was not able to do, like handing out Kindles on campus at the beginning of the year.

Some students seemed to be responding to Pepsi's strong efforts. In fact, Pepsi had several avid supporters within the James Madison student body.

"Pepsi tastes so much better than Coke, and Dr Pepper is the best sods ever," said sophomore Nathaniel Robinson. "Why would anyone be upset about this?"

Sophomore Kaitlyn Kissane claimed to know the university's motives in making the big change.

"The JMU athletes complained about Powerade and about how they like Gatorade more, and so JMU switched so that the athletes would be happier."

According to Yowell, Pepsi had a lot more options than their competitors, which made it a good choice for JMU students. These included the special edition Mountain Dew flavors released each year and Starbucks drinks.

Whether students appreciated it or not, Pepsi had taken over, and students would be seeing blue instead of red at least for the next 10 years.
Freshman Ashley Atzingen slides her JACard for a Pepsi product in Harmon Hall. The vending machines offered refreshments such as Pepsi sodas, Lipton tea and Starbucks coffee drinks.
For most students, coming to college was the next step toward becoming a "grown up" with a career. Internships were another stepping stone to the real world, where students made important connections that could lead to their dream jobs.

For senior sports and recreation management major Dustin Taylor, interning with the James Madison University Football Office was that stepping stone. Taylor completed his internship with Coach John Bowers, whose titles included assistant head coach, tight ends coach and recruiting coordinator.

Taylor said he chose this internship because it was "a great opportunity to learn a different side of sport and recreation that I haven't thought about before in coaching."

Taylor used a connection to get an interview with Coach Bowers.

"Zach [Lantz] was doing an internship with Coach Bowers and knew he had an opening for a coaching intern, so [he] along with some players recommended me," Taylor said.

During the off-season, when Taylor first began working in the football office, he watched recruits, kept tabs on what they were doing and came up with a list of players he thought might fit in at JMU. He also helped run camps during the summer.

"I break down film, make tight end tip sheets, along with going to practice and helping out the tight ends and kickers," Taylor said.

Taylor said a normal workday in the football office usually began around 6:30 a.m. and ended anywhere from 7-10 p.m., depending on how much work needed to be done.

"I come in and break down film, it being ourselves or an opponent, then I go out to practice film to see what corrections need to be made," Taylor said.

According to Taylor, his favorite part of the internship was watching the players grow throughout his time at the office and learning from the coaches.

"Hopefully it'll help me get a job, that's the idea, but I feel..."
Juniors Lauren Bariotta, Anna Hogue and Lindsey Bittle hang out during a UVA home game. Hogue had many duties at her job as an intern for Virginia Sports Properties.

While Taylor worked with the team, junior sports and recreation management major Anna Hogue completed an internship in game day operations setting.

During the fall of 2014, Hogue began her internship with Virginia Sports Properties, which was the marketing and multimedia partner for the University of Virginia. She provided services such as food and beverages to private parties and suites on football game days. Her official position was as game day staff and Virginia Sports Properties Intern.

Hogue connected with her supervisor, Kate McGowan, a JMU graduate, through an email that her adviser sent out.

"One of her emails was an opening for this position, so I knew I had to take it. It was a perfect opportunity," Hogue said.

Her game day duties included helping the staff set up for private tailgates for their clients.

"I really do anything that needs to be done in terms of set up and tear down, as well as checking in the clients at the tailgate," Hogue said.

According to Hogue, the best part of her internship was the people with whom she made connections.

"I really clicked with the people that I work with and the networking opportunities are endless," Hogue said.

While many students went into internships only looking for a resume booster, the networking opportunities proved just as important.

WORDS Courtney Ambrose
PHOTO Courtney Ambrose
DESIGN Christopher Morales
Nothing was off limits in Wilson Hall on the night of Oct. 18. Natasha Leggero began her highly anticipated performance by coming on stage smoking an electronic cigarette.

"Is anyone addicted to these yet? They're perfect for the health-conscious pregnant teen," Leggero began.

The audience roared to life with laughter and fell silent with gasps at the end of their breath. They had seen Leggero in performances such as a feature in "The Roast of James Franco" and roles in the recent movies, "Let's Be Cops" and "Neighbors," but this was different. With her raunchy sense of humor, it was almost as if Leggero was challenging her audience not to laugh.

"I can't decide what stresses me out more, not being able to remember my Apple ID or the fact that I grew up without a father," Leggero said during her performance.

The audience seemed to eat up her eclectic humor.

"She was hilarious," said Lucas Taggart, a senior media arts and design major. "There was one point in time where I looked at my friend in complete disbelief over something she said. Two seconds later, we were cracking up uncontrollably."

Before a crowd of approximately 200 people, she poked fun at everything from politics and religion to TLC and the Kardashians. She even stopped during her performance, listened to the bells chiming away in Wilson Hall and laughed at how "charming" JMU was.

"She was also really good at working the audience. She really got everyone involved," Taggart said.

At one point, Leggero pulled two students on stage and organized a date between the two at the Harrisonburg Applebee's the next night.

When she called it in, she spent 15 minutes chatting with the Applebee's employee, while the audience roared on in the background. After setting up the date, Leggero asked the new couple to tweet her after the date so she would know how it went.

During the show, Leggero spoke of sensitive topics, such as the Republican Party's attempts to "legislate p----".

"Definitely one of the best shows I've been to," Taggart said after the show.

Whether they were sitting with bated breath or gasping for more between laughs, it was obvious that everyone in Wilson Hall had a blast during the show and that Natasha Leggero was well received by the university.
Natasha Leggero poses with the JMU University Program Board. Leggero also took photos with many of her fans in the audience following her performance.

Natasha Leggero smiles as she cracks a joke to the audience. Leggero's performance was the first in a series of shows held by the University Program Board.

Natasha Leggero smokes an electronic cigarette as she opens her performance. Leggero claimed to be a smoker in multiple tweets on her Twitter account.
Imagine being the only person of your race standing in a room of 100. This was a reality for people of certain ethnic groups on campus as the gap between white and non-white students remained incredibly large.

In a school where 80 percent of the students were white, minority students were few and far between. In the year 2014, it was reported that a mere four percent of students were African American and black, five percent Asian and Pacific Islander, three percent Hispanic and Latino, and one percent Native American.

Some students felt that JMU was a majority white or Caucasian school. However, it included programs emphasizing diversity and acceptance in orientation programs that helped acceptance within the new student population.

Freshman Yara Azar said that this affected the way people saw her and how she saw herself as a minority student.

"I think that being a minority student gives me an advantage because through my Lebanese American culture, I've learned how to be open-minded to ideas and beliefs," Azar said. "This helps me in school because I feel as if I can receive information and look at it from not just an American standpoint, I'm able to think about different things from different angles that others may not see."

However, not all students were accepting of other cultures.

"There's always a couple of people that make racist and ignorant jokes, so that's when being a minority student isn't so fun anymore," Azar said. "Most of the time I just brush it off, but I'm always conflicted with whether I should address the person and correct them or just ignore it completely and continue whatever I was doing."

Sophomore Jessica Garcia felt uncomfortable in certain situations and attributed it to her status as a minority student. In class, Garcia's professor singled her out and asked for her opinion of her race about a certain topic.

"I was uncomfortable because I didn't like being picked out of a crowd to represent the Latino population," Garcia said. "We are all individuals and I can't speak for a race as a whole."

Freshman Hannah Cuja, on the other hand, saw minorities in a different way. While she didn't identify herself as a minority, others assumed she was Hispanic or Latino.

"When people ask my ethnicity and I say American, they don't accept that as an answer," Cuja said. "I'm used to it because of how frequently I'm asked, but it does annoy me."
Freshman Isais Dawit said he felt empowered by his African American heritage. “It makes me feel unique and special because I am one of the only people here of my race. I have a distinct culture almost all to myself,” Dawit said.

“While I have an advantage in situations like applying to JMU, I do not feel I am treated differently because of my race and that is the beauty of JMU; we are all people here.”

Sophomore Javier Morales agreed, saying that because he was of a different ethnicity, people were more interested in getting to know him.

“People tend to be more interested about my past history and my background because most people haven’t been exposed to or had the chance to talk to someone with my type of background until coming to JMU,” Morales said.

He added that he didn’t identify himself as a minority student because he didn’t see race as a big issue.

Race was a controversial issue on campuses nationwide, however here at JMU we all bled purple.

"People tend to be more interested about my past history and my background because most people haven’t been exposed to or had the chance to talk to someone with my type of background until coming to JMU."

- Sophomore Javier Morales

WORDS Rachel Crowe
PHOTO Breana Quintero
DESIGN Rachel Crowe
Bluetique is a popular clothing store in downtown Harrisonburg. The store carried colorful, printed garments and an assortment of jewelry.

Kline’s is a soft-serve ice cream parlor with two locations in Harrisonburg. One of the students’ favorite flavors was brownie batter.

Friendly City Food Co-op is an organic grocery store. They featured a lot of locally grown produce for vegetarian and health-conscious students.

Earth & Tea Cafe is a small restaurant in downtown Harrisonburg. The quiet, cozy cafe was a favorite study location for students.

Jack Brown’s Bar & Burger Joint is a favorite hotspot for nights and weekends. One burger they offered came served with macaroni and cheese, barbecue sauce and potato chips.
Students kick back at some of Harrisonburg’s most popular locations

When not studying in Carrier library or working out at UREC, JMU students could be found hanging out in some of Harrisonburg’s hotspots.

With a large number of restaurants in the area, students had many choices when it came to their food. Among the student’s favorites were Benny Sorrentino’s, Earth and Tea Cafe, The Artful Dodger and Jack Brown’s Beer & Burger Joint.

“Benny’s is a great, cheap place. Every time my family comes to visit we always stop by Benny’s,” said sophomore nursing major Lauren Ellis.

Benny’s was known for their large-portion pizzas and even had to remodel their restaurants in order to fit the giant boxes through the door.

Even with all the great food around, the frontrunner for favorite place to eat was clear: Jack Brown’s.

“Jack Brown’s is the best. I think they have the best burgers and fries I have ever eaten,” said junior accounting major Jessica Lee.

Jack Brown’s burgers were popular among students for their originality, with selections such as the “Greg Brady,” which came with macaroni and cheese, barbecue sauce and potato chips. The downtown restaurant was also known for their beer selection and happy hour prices.

Even though food in Harrisonburg was very enticing, there were many other popular hangout spots for JMU students. Among those were the Court Square Theater, Funky’s Skate Center and Valley Lanes bowling center.

“Funky’s is great to go to on a Saturday night. My friends and I would always go when there was nothing else going on,” said senior business major Caitlin McLean.

Some of the more adventurous students drove to Shenandoah National Park to go hiking on the weekends for some exercise, or to simply appreciate the views.

“The Shenandoah Valley region is full of opportunities to get outside and be active,” said sophomore writing, rhetoric and technical communication major Giuliana Macaluso.

Other popular hiking sites included Old Rag and the Natural Chimneys.

Another outdoor spot frequented by JMU students was the Harrisonburg Farmers Market, which was popular for its freshly made bread and locally grown, organic produce.

“I always go [to the farmer’s market] with my roommates on Saturday mornings. It’s so fun to see and taste all of the local foods from the valley,” said senior psychology and special education double major Leslie Brittain.

Whether out getting food with friends, or staying in and watching a movie, JMU students made use of the Harrisonburg area to have the best college experience possible.

Words Hannah Adams
Photo Hannah Adams
Design Megan Rzepka
GRACE STREET
PARKING DECK

FACULTY/
STAFF SPACES

COMMUTER
SPACES

8818
FULL
It was like battle, only instead of taking place in a warzone, it was happening in a packed parking lot.

This year, the campus parking situation was a topic of frustration for many students.

As JMU has continued to accept more students, those who parked on campus experienced the negative effects of campus overpopulation.

"They're definitely expanding and that's a good thing, but they're going to need to expand the parking as well if they're going bring in more and more students," Spencer Rose, a sophomore business management major said.

Parking Services attempted to ease the problem by adding 1,500 parking spots on campus since 2010, according to Director of Parking Services William Yates. However, it didn't seem to be enough.

"They need to have more parking lots and also, there's not enough parking at key times, so I feel like people are missing classes," Rose said.

While the limited parking was frustrating, it also taught students the best ways to find a parking spot.

"Usually, you just have to drive around and hope that you find someone waiting (in) the parking lot and ask them if they're leaving and have to follow them to their car," Rose said.

This strategy, which many referred to simply as "stalking," was also practiced by senior sports and recreations major William Lin and junior health sciences major Lisa Pulley.

The reactions from other drivers could vary.

"Just now I had to stalk a guy to get him to let me take his parking spot and he was really nice, but sometimes people are really mean," Pulley said.

Students like senior sports and recreations major William Lin had to adjust by getting back to campus earlier or having multiple parking lots serve as their backup plans. This didn't stop students from voicing their frustrations.

"I used to park at [the baseball lot] all the time for the past year and a half, but lately it's been getting full really fast," Lin said.

But there was a silver lining for those who struggled to find a space. JMU planned to open a new parking deck in the summer of 2016 on the corner of South Mason Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Way, according to Yates. The addition could have been the solution many were looking for.

The new parking deck was expected to have 1,000 new spots for faculty, staff, commuters and residents, according to Associate Director of Communications William Wyatt.

Some believed that the extra spaces could prove to be helpful for those who parked on campus.

"I think [the parking deck] would help a lot, but I won't get to see it because I'm graduating," Lin said.

Others doubted that its effectiveness.

"I think it should help, except it might encourage more people to drive to school and then they won't take the buses, and we'll just have the same issue," Pulley said.

Whether or not more lots would be added to campus, students would likely continue to clash and brawl over coveted parking spots for years to come.

WORDS Erin Flynn
PHOTO Samuel Taylor
DESIGN Breana Guintero
Most people knew Dave Matthews Band. Most people didn't know that two members of the Grammy-award winning group actually attended JMU. The late saxophonist LeRoi Moore and keyboardist Butch Taylor studied music at the university in the late seventies and eighties. Moore was a founding member of DMB, which formed in Charlottesville in early 1991. Taylor did not become a member of the band until 1998, and he toured and recorded with the group until 2008.

Q: How did Dave Matthews Band form? What were the early days like?
A: It formed in my absence, but my dear friends LeRoi Moore (JMU Alum) and Carter Beauford kept me up on what they were doing, and let me hear their first basement recordings. They invited me to join, but I was in the thick of grad school and teaching, and chose to finish school. Next thing I know, they're on MTV and playing eight or nine months a year and blowing peoples' minds. Fortunately for me, they asked me to join them on the "Before These Crowded Streets" album and our association was renewed.

Q: What was your experience at JMU?
A: I don't think I could have gotten a better education anywhere, and my professors were equally focused on academics and professional experiences to prepare us for life after school. They were brilliant educators and great people.

Q: How was your favorite thing about JMU?
A: I loved the music community there, for sure, and the local music scene at the time, but there were so many things. It's a beautiful campus in a beautiful setting. The great people I connected with on a daily basis were inspirational and hardworking, and expected that from me. I made dozens of lifelong friends there and remain in touch routinely.

Q: What was JMU like when you went there compared to now?
A: It was obviously smaller and a little easier to navigate. The growth there is stunning, at both the campus and in the surrounding area. The town has definitely retained its charm and appeal, though.

Q: How did you get interested in music?
A: My parents and the great Oscar Peterson. Dad was a great musician, and Mom was a gentle enthusiast, which was the right combination for me. We always had music playing around the house, and my brothers and sister all played instruments and sang. I heard Oscar at age six, and somehow I knew what he was doing, and I wanted to do that too. I remember it vividly. I pestered my parents relentlessly until they agreed to get a piano, and the rest is history. My family's support was invaluable, along with teachers along the way.

Q: What was your favorite DMB song?
A: I'm partial to the ones I recorded, Rapunzel and Crush, but I always enjoyed Stay. All of the bands' tunes were great fun to play, though. Challenging and terrifically well-written, I'm fortunate to have had that experience.

Q: What have you been working on since leaving DMB?
A: I've been writing, producing, performing and becoming a reasonably proficient recording engineer of late. I worked in Washington state and Los Angeles for a while with a couple of great bands, and currently I'm teaching Jazz Piano at UVA.

WORDS Sarah Callaway
PHOTO Courtesy of Butch Taylor
DESIGN Alexandra Rathjens
Brad Sherwood talks to the audience as Colin Mochrie waits to respond. Each show in their tour went different, as the show was not scripted.
On Oct. 10, 2014, two of the world's leading masters of comedy graced the Wilson Hall stage for a performance that left audience members rolling in their seats with laughter. Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood, former stars of the hit television show, "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" paid their third visit to JMU for a night full of laughter and mischief.

"My favorite part was the first sketch where they had the people act out the scenery," freshman hospitality management major Mollie Reynolds said. "My family and I watched 'Whose Line Is It Anyway?' when I was little and it was really fun getting to see them live."

Mochrie and Sherwood toured the globe for more than a decade with their world class improv comedy show, "Colin and Brad: Two Man Group." They visited all kinds of venues, from concert arenas to college campuses.

"College venues are a lot dirtier," Mochrie said. "The audience basically sets the tone for the show. We really don't have anything, so it's really up to you guys to give us stuff to make a show for you."

While each of the skits contained a similar structure, audience suggestions and participation played a major role in creating a unique experience for every performance.

"There are a lot of people who think that we had rehearsed and written the show and that we're reading off cue cards," Mochrie said. "It just kills me, because if you actually transcribe any of the scenes we do, they really don't make any sense."

Mochrie and Sherwood's show included games such as "Sound Effects," where audience members were given a microphone to produce sound effects as they were acted out on stage, and "Kick It," wherein one performer would have to break into rap whenever the other mentioned the phrase, "kick it."

Mochrie and Sherwood's final act, however, was of a particularly dangerous nature. With more than 50 mousetraps spread along the floor, Mochrie and Sherwood had to improvise a scene while walking barefoot and blindfolded across the stage. Egged on by audience members, the performers tried to trick each other by quickly removing their blindfolds and throwing mousetraps at each other, sending audience members into hysterics.

"Sometimes colleges can be a little more vocal and raucous," said Mochrie.

This was certainly the case for JMU, as student volunteers for many of the duo's skits tended to make particularly inappropriate suggestions. Mochrie and Sherwood, who had been desensitized to the wildness of college atmosphere over the years, simply rolled with every crazy punch.

"When we do colleges, we try not to mention anything that happened before 1994," Sherwood said. "Sometimes you make one reference and it just goes over everyone's head."

At the end of the performance, Mochrie and Sherwood made up a farewell song on the spot, referencing various moments from the show and including a special shout-out for JMU.

"We had fun at JMU, right here in Harrisonburg," Mochrie and Sherwood sang as the night drew to a close.

After attending "Colin and Brad: Two Man Group" here at JMU, audience members left with big smiles and memories for years to come.
SINGING STARLET
JMU STUDENT RECOGNIZED FOR HER VOICE

Senior Alexis Keene always felt comfortable in the spotlight. Keene interned for the “Bobby Bones Show” this past summer in Nashville. The radio show played country music for its Nashville audience, although the show was syndicated throughout the United States. In Harrisonburg, the show could be heard on WCKY 104.3.

Keene, a communication studies major, visited Nashville with her family during her junior year. She fell in love with the city and set a goal to find work there for the upcoming summer. When Keene first started applying to internships, she had never heard of the “Bobby Bones Show.” Once she did, she scheduled an interview and was hired as an intern.

On her third day of her summer internship, Bobby Bones of the “Bobby Bones Show” asked Keene to perform on air. Some of her fellow interns had heard her singing around the studio and suggested her talent as a possible topic for the show. She sang “Famous” by Kelleigh Bannen.

“It was a total surprise,” Keene said.

Keene’s family and friends heard her on the radio, and quickly responded to the news.

“My phone blew up,” Keene said.

The JMU community also gave an overwhelming response with tweets and Facebook posts praising her talent.

Although she was invited onto the show, Keene also had to perform her standard intern duties, such as filling coffee orders and running errands. However, she gained valuable radio experience from typing up transcripts from talk show segments and preparing fact sheets on artists scheduled to give an interview. During her internship, Keene was also able to meet one of her favorite country musicians, Blake Shelton, and many other artists.

“They’re all just normal people. They’re very down to earth,” Keene said.

Keene discovered her love for country music at a young age. She recalled singing Disney songs as a child and even then, it was noticeable that she had talent.

In high school, she started singing along to Taylor Swift on the radio and was inspired to learn to play guitar. She taught herself to play on her brother’s guitar by watching YouTube tutorials. Eventually Keene began taking lessons at Reston Music where she improved her skills.

“I always had a twang to my voice,” Keene said.

She recorded her first album, “Feels Like Home,” during her senior year of high school. The farm that her mother grew up on in Pennsylvania inspired the songs on the album.

“My heart has always been in the country,” Keene said.

Keene’s album was made available on iTunes and Spotify and could be found under her artist name, Lexie Hayden: a combination of her first and middle names. Balancing her time as both a JMU student and a serious musician was challenging for Keene.

“I have spent a lot of time in college commuting,” Keene admitted.

She traveled back and forth from Harrisonburg and Northern Virginia to record her music, give performances and film a documentary based on one of her songs.

As of October 2014, her YouTube page had more than 10,000 subscribers. She planned to release a new album early in 2015.

Keene also gave performances at various campus events and Harrisonburg venues. According to Keene, her favorite performance was last spring at JMU’s Relay for Life. Keene said she was blown away by the crowd’s involvement.

“When we sing ‘Wagon Wheel,’ there was a point in the song where we actually stopped singing the words and the audience sang to us,” Keene said. “It was the coolest performance ever.”

WORDS Madeline Holden
PHOTO Courtesy of Alexis Keene
DESIGN Christina Reilly
Homecoming activities included events such as the CAA Blood Drive, Trick or Treat on the Row, the Homecoming Pep Rally, the Second Annual Homecoming Headquarters on Godwin Field and the Alumni Golf Tournament.

The Homecoming game was held against William and Mary on Nov. 1, 2014 in front of a crowd of 21,778. The Dukes won against the W&M Tribe 31-24. Dukes showed up in support of their team even in the cold and pouring rain.
Abbyf Stemel helps pass out T-shirts. Homecoming week ran smoothly with the help of student volunteers.

Alumni and students pose for a picture at the Homecoming game tailgate. Freshman Frank Feichtel was excited to connect with 1990 alumni (right).

Junior Karl Bickert introduces the Duke Dog to his pet bulldog. Bickert's dog was a big hit at the Homecoming event.

Junior Aquela Perry plays with her dog during the "Purple Out" T-shirt giveaway. Many students came up to pet her dog.

Junior Heather Alderson and senior Martin Benitez take in Homecoming. There was a variety of tickets offered at the Homecoming event.
HOW TO DATE IN COLLEGE

A TRIAL AND ERROR GUIDE TO LOVE AND LUST AT JMU

Dating culture evolved a lot since the days of pinning and “going steady.” In an era where online dating was growing and relationships were sparking over social media, dating in college was a whole new ballpark.

Chloe Cunningham, a senior international affairs major, was involved in a variety of relationships. When she first came to college, she was dating a boy who was still in high school.

“A few weeks into school he asked if I wanted to go to Homecoming with him, and I was like, ‘Ew, that’s so lame: being a college student going to a high school party.’ We broke up shortly after that,” Cunningham said.

Following that breakup, she dated someone who also went to JMU.

“Now I’m doing someone who doesn’t go to JMU, so I’ve really tried it all,” said Cunningham.

College gave students a new environment and the opportunity to experience many new things when it came to dating. The confines of high school and parents were replaced with no curfew and, for the first year, no car.

“When you’re a freshman and sophomore, you can’t go anywhere,” Cunningham said. “My friend is a sophomore and they go out on dates to Dukes and he punches for her. I think [cases like these] are a little comical, but at the same time, they’re doing their best.”

College also introduced some to their first experiences with long-distance relationships, which could be a blessing or a burden. A lot of preparation and planning went into making these relationships work.

“It can be difficult at times when our schedules get busy and we can’t text or call a lot, but him getting to visit occasionally helps,” said Alexandra Guendert, a sophomore political science major.

Cunningham echoed this statement.

“Dating someone who doesn’t live here can be a pain because it involves so much planning, but when you’re actually together, it’s awesome,” said Cunningham.

Nevertheless, dating within the university had its negatives, too.

“I feel like a lot of times when you date someone in college, people can be suffocated by each other if they’re at the same school,” said Cunningham. “You might not have the opportunity to make friends outside of the relationship.”

Social media dating apps like Tinder and OkCupid might have been things that parents and grandparents saw as ludicrous, but for college students, it was a way to meet new people without having to meet face-to-face.

“I think dating apps are fun for those not looking for anything serious,” said Guendert. “I also think Tinder and dating apps have caused a lot of jealousy and uncomfortable situations for both couples and single people.”

Tinder and OkCupid were neither the first step nor the last in the evolution of college dating. Whether it was a date at Dukes, an encounter on Tinder or a commute between here and Virginia Tech, college dating was a unique experience for everyone.

WORDS Julie Hirschhorn
PHOTO Madeline Williams
DESIGN Leah Jacobs
TOP Sophomore Alexandra Guendert and Coleman Beiler hang out during a visit. Guendert and Beiler visited as often as they could in their long-distance relationship.
LEFT Senior Chloe Cunningham browses a dating app on her phone. Cunningham enjoyed glancing through the apps available to students.

"THEY GO OUT ON DATES TO DUKES AND HE PUNCHES FOR HER"
What do breakfast food, drinks, board games and drag queens have in common? At the Artful Dodger Coffeehouse and Cocktail Lounge in downtown Harrisonburg, the answer was obvious: Drag Bingo Brunch.

“We do these events maybe five or six times a month,” said drag performer Chasity Vain. “Locally, they’re always at the Dodger, but they have events over at the Court Square Theater as well.”

The audience for Drag Bingo Brunch was not entirely what you would expect, ranging from college students to older women and families with small children. During the event, a host dressed in drag introduced performers and announced bingo numbers.

Each performance included elaborate costumes and makeup with choreographed dance routines. Performers lip-synced everything from Lady Gaga to Shania Twain, garnering an incredibly positive audience reaction.

Bingo players had the chance to win multiple prizes, including a vacuum cleaner.

“I actually didn’t know this was happening here today, but it was definitely a great pick-me-up,” said senior communications major Marleka Turner. “I was three away from winning bingo, and I actually need a vacuum, so I was, like, pretty mad about it!”

Throughout each performance, audience members would extend a dollar or two out to the performers as a kind of “tip.” This was a regular occurrence, and including participation from audience members of all ages, from cheering older women to wide-eyed young children.

“The amount of money we get really depends on how much we do during the show,” said drag performer Alexa Vain, who was elected first alternate for Miss Gay Harrisonburg At Large in 2014. “But people are a lot more accepting at the Dodger.”

The Artful Dodger hosted many of the area’s drag events and after parties over the years, quickly making it a warm, welcoming place for drag performers from all walks of life.

“I travel all over Virginia,” said drag performer Naveah Symone. “But [The Artful Dodger] is like home. Everyone knows me, so I always have the most fun here.”

For many locals, the drag shows at The Artful Dodger were a staple source of fun, fresh entertainment for a night out on the town with friends and family.

No matter what, each drag event at The Artful Dodger proved to be quite an interesting experience for audience members of all ages. Whether a person won a brand-new vacuum or just got some glitter on your clothes, everyone was guaranteed to walk away with an exciting story to tell.

WORDS Michelle Criqui
PHOTO Jillian Wright
DESIGN Breana Quintero
Artful Dodge drag performers Serenity Simone (LEFT), Isabella Harelplace (BELOW) and Ormsby Kelly (PHOTO) set the stage for an exciting evening. The crowd was singing and dancing along with show.
Members of the belly dance club practice a routine. Belly dancing required a lot of practice and form in order to do it well.

The Belly Dance Club poses after a practice. Members practiced at UREC.
Students looking for a good workout or a chance to express themselves through dance shimmied and shook themselves into JMU’s Belly Dance Club.

With the fun of modern dancing combined with the health benefits of exercise, it was no wonder that belly dancing became popular at JMU.

“I can see it becoming a sensation similar to what Zumba has become,” said senior interdisciplinary liberal studies major and Belly Dance Club President Emily Camerisi.

Similar to Zumba, belly dance was great exercise. The techniques strengthened nearly all of the body’s muscles simultaneously improving posture and spinal alignment. It also helped with stress reduction, which was known to be a big issue among college students. It was even cited as having digestive benefits.

Some basic belly dance techniques used were shimmies, twists, circles and undulations. All of these techniques could be used for any part of the body, such as arms, shoulders or hips. This was one of the reasons belly dance was so good for the body.

Shimmies were quick back-and-forth movements that made the coin skirts rattle. The move used leg, chest and core muscles. Twists were slower, more pronounced back-and-forth movements that could be done with virtually any part of the body. Circles were techniques where the dancer moved her hips or chest in circular motions, exercising core and back muscles. Undulation was the technique that came to mind for most people when they heard the term “belly dance.” It was the snake-like movement throughout the entire body that gave belly dance its exotic and sensual aspect.

The JMU Belly Dance Club used these techniques in their American tribal style belly dance as well as a fusion style. The American style tribal belly dance used a group of performers for a routine whereas the traditional style only used one or two performers. American tribal style could also include improvisation in the routine, though it was not required.

Different body cues and a kind of dancing vocabulary made improvisation possible among a group of dancers. The modern fusion also allowed the group to use additional modern techniques, music and dress in their routines, as opposed to traditional music and dress.

Even though this club was geared more toward exercise, the Belly Dance Club did make occasional public appearances.

“We do not have any competitions, but we do occasionally perform if there is enough interest from members of the club,” said Camerisi.

The club had casual performances on the Taylor Down Under stage, as well as more formal ones at the Annual Homecoming Step Show and Relay for Life. The club focused on being comfortable and having fun, so members did not have to perform publicly if they did not want to.

Whether seen as a new way to exercise, or as an exotic show, the JMU Belly Dance Club impressed health nuts and dance fans alike.

WORDS George Agrios
PHOTO Danielle Lerer
DESIGN Alexandra Rathjens
In the past decade, the cyber world saw a diverse collection of social media platforms. From the MySpace craze in middle school to the rise of Facebook and Twitter, it was clear that social media grew exponentially and had no sign of stopping.

"Instead of the 'water cooler talk' method of sharing, we now have the retweet or online sharing," said junior political science and geographic science double major Adam Miner. "This has been around before I attended JMU, but I have noticed it has really taken off even more in the past year and a half to two years."

Others believed that certain social media trends that were "in" when they entered JMU were being phased out.

"I think that people are straying farther and farther away from Facebook these days," said Alyssa Wolf, a senior sociology and communications double major. "There are so many other types of social media outlets that are becoming more popular. Instagram particularly has gained a huge following since freshman year."

Almost anything was fair game on photo-centric sites like Instagram. Categories ranged from pictures of gourmet food, to red-orange sunsets and gym selfies.

Meanwhile, websites like Twitter and Facebook were used for communicating and sharing information.

However, some apps gave more freedom to their users. Yik Yak, a relatively new social media site that enabled anonymous users to post thoughts about their community, could be used as an outlet for people to post hurtful comments behind the veil of an iPhone screen.

"Social media definitely can be misused," Wolf said. "Sites like Yik Yak can take things..."
a bit too far at times because it's anonymous. People feel like they have the freedom to say anything, even if it's offensive.”

However, there were also benefits to social media. They were even used in the classroom, making communication between students and professors much easier.

“A few of my classes have the professors assign readings through Tumblr blog posts, or require students to keep a blog and link it to our online Canvas classroom site,” Miner said.

The use of social media quickly became pervasive in society and picked up speed globally. Many recent historical events were influenced by social media to garner support or spread awareness.

Word of 2011's Arab Spring spread like wildfire after Egyptian citizens began posting photos of riots in Cairo on Twitter.

Similarly, JMU's sexual assault crisis over the summer of 2014 went viral through Facebook and online blog posts. Instead of having to wait hours or even days for updates, people were able to see new findings instantly.

"In less than 10 minutes, people can become very knowledgeable about a topic that they have not known before and then they can spread it to their friends," Miner said.

In a world where people could communicate with the touch of a button, anything and everything could be shared. JMU's campus was full of students who shared important information about local, national and international issues.

"Hopefully their friends do the same thing, which ultimately makes for a seriously informed society, the kind that James Madison would be proud of," Miner said.

WORDS Julie Hirschhorn
PHOTO Madeline Williams
DESIGN Ana Garcia
Gamma Sigma Sigma sisters, junior Anna Bojanci and sophomore Courtney Janaea, take a few minutes to relax before they start walking in JMU's Relay for Life. GSS also fundraised for other causes such as drunk driving and autism awareness.
YOU GOT SERVED

Greeks on campus give back their community

WORDS Madeline Holden
PHOTO Hannah Adams
DESIGN Christina Reilly
The brothers of Alpha Phi Omega gather on the JUAT hill for group photo. APO held regular chapter meetings to discuss fraternity business.

JMU greek service organizations had a busy year giving back to the Shenandoah Valley.

Gamma Sigma Sigma, a greek service sorority, performed various types of community service in the Harrisonburg community. They worked with the Shenandoah Valley Autism Partnership to hold an annual 5K that served two purposes: to help raise awareness of autism and to fundraise for SVAP, which provided resources and support for individuals with autism as well as their families.

Junior communication science and disorders major Brianna Sullivan joined GSS because of the service opportunities and welcoming atmosphere.

"It doesn't matter who you are or where you came from, everyone is welcome," Sullivan said. "We don't choose sisters, they choose us."

Sisters of GSS devoted their time and efforts to other organizations like the Salvation Army and the Arc. The Arc was a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for adults with disabilities. Sisters visited and danced with teenagers and adults at Arc-sponsored social events called Canteens. Additionally, they held blood drives on campus.

"I have learned that there is no better feeling than when you are able to improve someone else's life," Sullivan said. "Even if you help one person or do one good deed."

Sullivan wanted to continue her education to service even after college.

"Once I graduate, I will continue to serve my community," Sullivan said. "As a Gamma Sig sister, it is my lifelong duty to serve others and the community."

The brothers of Alpha Phi Omega, a co-ed greek service fraternity, also contributed to the Harrisonburg community. APO worked extensively with an organization called Our Community Place. With OCP, they helped serve meals to those in need.

"I wanted to be part of something greater than myself and to give back," said senior Tori Lugar about her decision to join APO.

She also mentioned how JMU students sometimes live in the campus "bubble" and do not think much about the surrounding area.

APO participated in ongoing weekly projects and other less frequent community service activities. Weekly projects included volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club, Second Home and the Salvation Army. The organization also worked with Habitat for Humanity and cleaned up the university's arboretum.

Second Home was a more recent project for the fraternity. Second Home provided affordable daycare for children while their parents were working. The organization emphasized homework completion and scheduled reading times.

Lugar thoroughly enjoyed her experiences working with children at the Boys and Girls Club and Second Home.

"I love working with kids. I don’t think I knew that about myself before I started volunteering here," Lugar said.

Lugar described seeing the impact of her and her fellow brothers' hard work and efforts on individuals' lives very rewarding.

"I don't think anything else you do in this world can really match that feeling," Lugar said.

APO was made up of a diverse group of people who all share a common desire to serve. Being in APO has caused Lugar to rethink some aspects of her future and career goals.

"It's changed my outlook on how I want to live the rest of my life and how I want to impact others."
Gamma Sigma Sigma sisters socialize while they wait for their turn to walk the track at the 2014 Relay For Life. The sorority was one of the top fundraisers for Relay.

Gamma Sigma Sigma sister, senior education major Kathryn Scott, poses with luminaria. Participants could purchase luminaria from the event to honor someone fighting cancer.
STUDENTS BEGIN A JIMMY BUFFET CLUB ON CAMPUS

Maura Perry poses for a picture with the Parrotheadz Club. Perry was a huge Jimmy Buffet fan.

Ashlen Clark smiles in support of her organization. Clark enjoyed being in the Parrotheadz Club because of its carefree style.
Sophomore Austin Zymroz kicks back and relaxes during a meeting. Zymroz enjoyed being part of such an unique organization.

Senior Conor Webb poses as president of the Parrotheadz Club. Webb thought Jimmy Buffet would support his organization.

From "Margaritaville" to "Cheeseburger in Paradise," students probably knew at least one Jimmy Buffet song. Even if they didn't, there was a club on campus for that. Established in the spring in 2014, the JMU Parrotheadz were a group of students bonded by their love for Jimmy Buffet. A "parrothead" is a collective term for his fans.

The JMU Parrotheadz's mission and values aligned with the themes of Buffet's songs. The club promoted a carefree, relaxed environment and encouraged students not to get caught up in the everyday stresses of life.

"If I am being honest, no one really thought this club was going to happen or work out," said Ellie Wootel, a sophomore hospitality management major. "We had to go through the application process, which took place over an entire semester. It consisted of meetings, a Leadership U convention, leadership training classes and a lot of paperwork!"

One evening in the 2013, Wootel and Parrotheadz President, Conor Webb, discussed what it would be like to start a Jimmy Buffet club. According to Wootel, it took off from there.

"Jimmy Buffet is an all-around carefree spirit and I believe we all strive to be as fun loving and successful as he is," said Wootel. "We all bond over the fact that we can drift away from reality for a while and get lost in the tropical mindset when times get tough."

A typical club meeting was open and laid back. The main points on the agenda usually included discussing ideas for service and social events.

One of group's main service projects was Save the Manatees, an organization co-founded by Buffett to help support the endangered manatee population. They also collected money for students on the island of La Gonave, Haiti for them to purchase school supplies.

"Only 40 dollars [USD] supports a Haitian child to go to school for an entire year," said Webb after going to La Gonave on a mission trip last spring break. "The 40 dollars it costs families to send their children to school every year could definitely be used on other resources."

"The club liked to end each meeting on a positive note with meaningful lyrics from their idol."

"The goal of our meetings is to provide an escape from the real world of stress and due dates," said Webb. "Parrotheadz was not the first time Buffett had inspired campus; he performed at JMU in 1980. While the university continued to change, Buffett's messages and his impact on fans had not."

"I believe Jimmy Buffett would absolutely be on board with this organization," said Wootel. "I think he would also really respect that we are a social and service organization helping ourselves and others in our community, while most importantly having fun doing it."

Often times, students got caught up in the academics and social stressors of college or the agonizing wait in the Chipotle line. However, the Parrotheadz tried to reduce that stress by spreading the message of Buffett's music across campus to create mellow, relaxed vibes.

"Jimmy's music brings about the simple pieces of life we often forget about," said Webb. "He has inspired us to hear people's stories, because everyone has a story, they are just waiting to be asked to tell it."

Publicity Chair Austin Zymroz, a sophomore international affairs major echoed this sentiment.

"He has a way of getting people to sing to his lyrics and dance like no one is watching you. When everyone acts that way and there is something that everyone has in common, then it makes it that much easier to relate to the person next to you and connect like you never thought you would."

WORDS Julie Hirschhorn
PHOTO Emilou Landas
DESIGN Emilou Landas
LIGHTS!
CAMERAS!
ACTION!

JMU STUDENTS BEGIN A
FILM PRODUCTION CLUB
Some JMU students had great ideas for movies, sketches or short films, but did not have the resources to make their dreams a reality.

Senior media arts and design major Timothy Mitchell, and senior writing, rhetoric, and technical communication major Gregory Wilson, faced this dilemma head-on and eventually came up with a creative solution: Doghouse Productions, JMU's premier amateur film production company.

"There weren't really any programs where kids could just go and make their own movies," Mitchell said. "We provide students with an outlet to show their creative side and utilize their abilities within media arts, filming and design."

Through its newly-launched website, Facebook page and YouTube channel, Doghouse Productions garnered members with various skill sets required to bring their ideas from the page to the screen.

Sophomore media arts and design major Ryan Cudahy served as the club's secretary and worked to organize all the different projects Doghouse undertook.

"Doghouse asks questions no one else dares ask," Cudahy said. "We'll be releasing three short films soon and we have so many other projects coming up. We're just so excited to get it all out there."

Just as the organization celebrated its one-year anniversary in fall 2014, its first original short film, "Trail of Crumbs," premiered at Grafton-Stovall Theater on campus.

"Last year we were really just getting our feet wet with production and running the business and this year we've been slowly debuting content," Mitchell said. "We're looking to have another movie premiere at Grafton and at Court Square Theater next month."

Although it was only a year old, Doghouse Productions already had a lot of different projects in the works. On top of a documentary webseries, The Live Campaign and various sketch comedy pieces, the student-run production company also utilized their talents to contribute to the JMU community.

"We do promotional work for some companies around Harrisonburg," Mitchell said. "There are certain topics that JMU likes to shy away from and we really want to have our creative freedom to write what we want."

"We're working with a lot of big clients right now," Mitchell said. "We've found a lot of organizations who really fit well with what we're going for: providing funny as well as thoughtful content to both entertain and benefit the community."

Even as it was just starting out, the members of Doghouse had high hopes for the organization's future.

"At the end of this year, the graduating members are going to take the top kids, the ones who are really standouts or have been dedicated for the whole year and form an actual studio in downtown Harrisonburg, with the club serving as a sort of internship," said Mitchell. "There are certain topics that JMU likes to shy away from and we really want to have our creative freedom to write what we want."

Whether it was making students laugh or giving them an outlet for their creativity, Doghouse Productions provided a fresh take on student films for the JMU community.

WORDS Michelle Criqui
PHOTO Kendal Brown
DESIGN Courtesy of Kelsey Hineman
Students dress as characters from the "Harry Potter" book series and the Village. Harry Potter was a popular costume on Halloween.

Junior Jesse McWilliams channels his inner Ron Burgundy from the popular movie, "Anchorman." Many other students also chose to go as movie characters.

Junior Lacey Vilaury and Zachary Corona dress to impress at Nightmare at UREC. Events like these were perfect for students to show off their costumes.
Halloween marked the beginning of the holiday season and JMU started it with style. The cold, rainy weather did nothing to deter students from walking to their festivities and celebrating all kinds of Halloween traditions.

According to an old urban legend, people originally celebrated Halloween by wearing costumes to go door to door and offer prayers for the dead in exchange for treats. However, JMU students had their own traditions.

Many students chose their costumes based on popular movie characters and pop culture references.

"I was Katniss Everdeen," said senior biology major Heather Fowler. "I just needed an excuse to be Jennifer Lawrence!"

Freshman social work major Scott Caravas, stuck with a cheap alternative for his costume.

"An easy, last minute idea that didn't require money is Jake from the State Farm commercial," Caravas said. He wore a red polo shirt and khakis.

Most college students chose costumes based on cost and how easy they were to put together.

Sophomore sports and recreation management major Cassandra Neville found her costume idea on Pinterest.

"I was a pig in a blanket," said Neville. "It was so easy to put together and super cheap!"

Other students recalled some of their favorite costumes they've spotted over the years.

Junior finance major Akam Ahmed remembered a particular costume that he saw his sophomore year.

"A male student dressed up as McDonald's employee and identified himself as a West Virginia University graduate," said Ahmed. "I can still picture it."

Another one of Neville's favorites was a group costume that she saw her freshman year.

"A group of friends dressed up as the Clue characters," Neville said, "I had never seen that done before and it was so funny."

Once a costume choice was made, the next decision that had to be made was where to show off that costume. JMU and Harrisonburg offered multiple places for students to celebrate.

One of Fowler's favorite events was Fear Forest. The venue had two attractions: Fear Forest, a haunted forest that wound through the woods, and Fear Crops. Fear Crops was an interactive haunted hay wagon ride where guests battled zombies.

However, if being scared on Halloween wasn't a student's cup of cider, there were many other choices available.

"I went pumpkin and apple picking," said Neville. "It was super close to JMU and it was super fun every time I went."

JMU clubs and organizations also offered multiple events for students to attend on Halloween weekend. These ranged from lively house parties to laid back sober bashes.

"I went to the YoungLife party on Main Street," said Caravas. "It was a safe and fun environment on Halloween night and their parties are incredible overall."

According to Ahmed, JMU had a reputation to uphold when it came to being active in the holiday spirit.

"The JMU community has an eagerness to make the most out of this holiday," said Ahmed. "For a college environment, Halloween is the best holiday."

WORDS Kathryn Miller
PHOTO Jillian Wright
DESIGN Christina Reilly
PENNY PINCHERS

STUDENTS SHARE THEIR MONEY-SAVING TECHNIQUES

WORDS Erin Flynn
PHOTO Sarah Callaway
DESIGN Breana Quintero
The old saying "a penny saved is a penny earned" was taken quite literally at JMU. This year, the university wasn't short on college kids strapped for cash, leaving students to whip up some creative ways to save money.

Many avoided spending money by stealing food, cups and dishes from on-campus dining halls such as E-Hall and D-Hall.

An anonymous sophomore math major explained that she stole from the dining halls multiple times a week to save dining dollars. The sophomore, who had the Residential 14 plus meal plan also smuggled two sandwiches out of the dining hall so she didn't have to pay for another one at dinnertime. "We're paying ten dollars a punch," she said. "It's not worth getting a sandwich for $4.10."

Stealing food from dining halls was actually a common practice among students, and many weren't afraid to talk about the items they stole.

One anonymous sophomore writing, rhetoric and technical communication major mentioned that she often stole bananas and cookies from D-Hall.

One time, the sophomore brought a tennis bag into the dining hall and she and her friends filled it with 15 bananas.

However, the JMU students' quick fixes weren't limited to food from the dining halls.

"If I'm given the chance, I will. I don't know, maybe pocket something from various places around campus if I can sneak something in my backpack," an anonymous fifth-year English and writing, rhetoric and technical communication double major said.

Campus wasn't the only place that members of the JMU community saved money. Some students used this time to make financially wise decisions.

The fifth-year budgeted his money using two bank accounts. The money he received from his job transferred into one bank account and serves as his spending money.

Meanwhile, the bank account he had at home was a savings account, which his parents could add money to help pay for his dues or rent.

He also made use of his meal plan by using his punches during the day and not spending money on unnecessary food over the weekend. "If I can, I'll maybe wait for a friend of mine to get a little liquored up and they'll offer to buy me a food," he said.

A penny saved may have been penny earned, but at JMU, students were saving much more than pennies.
Quinto the tarantula hangs out in his cage. Tarantulas were an easy pet for students to care for.

Malagasy hissing cockroaches are relatively easy to care for. Optima Prime's diet consisted of fruit, vegetables and rotting wood.

Fifth-year senior Ashley Ellis holds her Malagasy hissing cockroach, Optima Prime. She bought Optima Prime as part of a class project.

Hedgehogs are very popular among college students. They were easy to care for despite their messy hay activities.
STUDENTS SHOW OFF THEIR FURRY AND NOT-SO-FURRY COMPANIONS

When it came to pets at JMU, some students' animal companions were far from the norm. While only fish were allowed in the dorms, off-campus housing was home to many different kinds of pets, including tarantulas, hedgehogs and even cockroaches. Leah Pouliot, a junior media arts and design major, kept her pet hedgehog, Bean, in her apartment.

"I wanted to get something really cool," Pouliot said. "[Hedgehogs] are small and they sort of just sleep on you all of the time."

Living with such an unusual pet here at JMU proved to be easier than Pouliot expected. According to the website Hedgehog Headquarters, domesticated hedgehogs were quiet by nature and kept themselves clean by self-grooming. They also ate an inexpensive diet of cat food and didn't need much living space.

"She's pretty easy to maintain," Pouliot said. "She's nocturnal and I'm mostly nocturnal at this point in college."

While the thought of owning a large spider as a pet was a nightmare for some, Logan Wasser, a sophomore media arts and design and biology double major, thought owning his pet tarantula Quinto was easy.

"It's been a pretty normal pet so far," said Wasser. According to the website Tarantula Guide, the furry arachnids were actually a docile species. When handling one, you were more likely to injure the spider than yourself. They preferred to retreat and give several warnings before attempting an attack. Even then, their bites were not poisonous to humans and were similar to bee stings at worst. Tarantulas were also noiseless, ate insects and required very little care.

Although the idea of sharing a living space with a giant spider was likely to make most people uncomfortable. However, Wasser's roommates simply laid down a few ground rules to ensure that Quinto stayed out of their hair – literally.

"My roommates just wanted it to stay in my room and in its cage," Wasser said. However, for senior writing, rhetoric and technical communication major Emily Birkett, fellow students displayed nothing but love for her affable pet hedgehog, George Michael.

"My roommates love him, and he's very popular with my friends," Birkett said. "For an antisocial and prickly pet, he's very charismatic."

Adrienne Elias, a fifth-year senior and industrial design major, got her Madagascar hissing cockroach, Optimus Prime, as a part of a school project.

"I did a project in class last year where I had to design a kitchen accessory using an exotic animal," Elias said. "I got a cockroach at a pet store in Staunton and brought it to class to up the ante."

According to the website Keeping Insects, pet cockroaches did not need very much care at all. They simply required an escape-proof living space that had enough room to move around. Cockroaches also ate a wide variety of food, from fruits and vegetables to rotting wood and moistened fish flakes.

"Cockroaches have their faces on the underside of their bodies, so they drown if you give them water," Elias said. "So [Optimus Prime] eats a kind of gelatin water I got at a pet store."

Despite the strangeness of their appearance and nature, these peculiar pets were definitely a break from the norm for the students at JMU.

WORDS Michelle Criqui
PHOTO Jillian Wright
DESIGN Christina Reilly
College made it hard enough to keep up with school work and a social life. For some, this was made even harder by the presence of mental illness and the stigma that was attached to it.

"Mental health is not just what you see on the news and shows like "Law and Order,"" said Kevin DiFazio, a junior psychology major and president of Active Minds, an organization that raised awareness about mental illness on campus.

The organization held meetings where speakers discussed various mental health topics, such as the stigma surrounding bipolar disorder or seeking counseling. They also partnered with other organizations for events involving mental health.

"This year we partnered with the counseling center for Suicide Awareness Week, where we spoke after a number of TED Talks were shown," DiFazio said. "We are also planning to hold an event called Stomp Out Stigma, where students could pop balloons with things they felt stigmatized for written on them."

During meetings, the organization discussed how to address the way mental illness was portrayed in the media and how in reality, they were not always depicted correctly. Often times, one probably wouldn't be able to guess that a person had a mental illness.

"As a group, we came to the consensus that the best way to combat these things is through education," DiFazio said. "We definitely want to do some outreach to show that mental health is not just what you see on TV."

According to the American Psychological Association, anxiety is the top concern among college students, followed by depression and then relationship problems. One of the overarching goals of Active Minds is to encourage students and the JMU community to see mental illness as something not to be ashamed of.

"I am interested in mental health and how it is perceived and addressed in society," said Meredith Kurtz, a junior psychology major. "When I heard how passionate they were about mental health, it was refreshing to know others cared as well."

Active Minds hoped to unite students against stigmatized perceptions and let the JMU community know that they did not stand by themselves when it came to mental illness.

"Know that you are not alone, and that JMU has a plethora of resources to help you help yourself," DiFazio said.
LIVING IN THE PAST

JMU STUDENT RE-ENACTS CIVIL WAR BATTLES

"I'm going to run you through with my bayonet if it's the last thing I do."

Cannons fired as Evan Hunsberger, a sophomore marketing major, let loose a rebel yell at Yankee troops. This was an American Civil War re-enactment, which he had participated in since the fifth grade. Re-enactments attracted anywhere from 5,000 to 10,000 spectators.

"I enjoy those far too much sometimes," Hunsberger said.

He laughed as he pulled his bright red battle drum closer to his chest. The $450 drum is an authentic reproduction to Civil War time, with hemp rope, hand-painted rims and hand-pressed shell.

"Re-enactment is sort of where my two loves meet. I love music and I love history," Hunsberger said.

2014 marked his tenth year of re-enacting the Battle of Cedar Creek. In 2004, on his tenth birthday, he participated in his first re-enactment at Cedar Creek.

Hunsberger screamed at the enemy as union cavalry and infantrymen flanked his unit.

"You couldn't hit the side of a barn!" Hunsberger taunted.

Teases like these were part of the historical period.

"It's all in good fun and we're trying to give spectators a semi-to-most accurate portrayal of what being a fly on the wall, watching these engagements, would have been like," Hunsberger said.

However, re-enacting was usually a safe hobby with no casualties.

Hunsberger said it was hard to re-enact the scenes without really getting to the anger and passion felt by the characters.

"You really do want to kill the guy across the field or you're afraid that the guy's actually going to kill you," Hunsberger said.

A few minutes into the re-enactment Hunsberger was drenched in sweat and aching to pull off his thick woolen jacket.

"There are plenty of guys who have had heat exhaustion, heat stroke, that kind of thing," Hunsberger said. "Yes, wool is heavy, but it actually wicks away the moisture from your body."

The South did not have the luxury of issuing new clothing every few months, so soldiers wore their jackets until they fell apart. Hunsberger's cuffs were frayed and a musty odor lingered in the linings.

"I have never washed it and I've had that for seven or eight years. It's kind of stained and, of course, that kind of lends itself to how authentic you are because those guys wouldn't have washed them," Hunsberger said. "I want to honor those people in the best in the best way I can...by getting what they wore because I don't want those guys turning over in their graves because I'm, like, wearing polyester."

Hunsberger even pulled his family into the re-enactment circuit with civilian roles. His mother, Christie Anne, sewed historically accurate clothing and corsets. His mother, father and sister also played key historical roles during the Harrisonburg Court and Market Days, an annual festival that recreated life in the 1850s.

"The kids had such a good time, we didn't want to be left out," Christie Anne said.

Christie Anne could trace her ancestry back to the Detamore Family, one of the families the Hunsbergers portrayed.

Stacey Nadeau, supervisor of historical interpretation of the New Market Battlefield, arranged a few re-enactors to help train actors for the 2014 movie, "Field of Lost Shoes," based on the Battle of New Market and fought by Virginia Military Institute cadets in May 1864.

Hunsberger earned over $400 for training the actors and serving as an extra from dawn to dusk for over four days over the course of two weeks.

On the second day of filming, the sun kissed the edge of the parade ground, VMI's modern architecture melted away and Hunsberger felt as if he had been transported into the past.

WORDS Emily Bagdasarian
PHOTO Courtesy of Evan Hunsberger
DESIGN Megan Rzepka
This is the may 11 long me in the field. The men around to the accantment take turn to the left and to the right.

Sotbeyton, Evan Hinsberger at with his red shirt and his shoes and lay ten years. Hinsberger states re-enacting the Civil War when he was ten.
Last year's Bare Naked Ladies executive committee, Samantha Summerford, Rebecca Neal, Casey Adams, Tasea Semla, Lindsay Rauke, Kaitlin Fitzgerald and Sarah Pomerson pose for a picture draped in flowers and fruit. The club encouraged women to feel naturally beautiful in their bodies.

BARING IT ALL

JMU CLUB ENCOURAGES POSITIVE BODY IMAGE
For many, self-perception is a roller coaster with many ups and downs. JMU's Bare Naked Ladies club attempted to battle the negative thoughts and words by promoting body positivity on campus.

The commonplace nature of social media and the constant exposure to images of impossibly perfect models has caused young people, especially women, to struggle with body image issues.

In 2011, JMU students founded the club, Bare Naked Ladies to improve upon this problem. The organization promoted positivity and self-acceptance, specifically focusing on educating women about eating disorders and healthy body image.

As a new club Bare Naked Ladies spent the first years of its existence developing a strong base of dedicated people. Recently, the club has focused on increasing membership and expanding its presence in the JMU community.

"Our major aim is on education," said senior psychology major and Bare Naked Ladies President Kaitlin Fitzgerald. "But we'll hold events to raise money for donations, and we'll also do smaller things like 'Letters to a Stranger' where we wrote little notes and gave them out, just to spread positivity in little ways."

The club had a general body meeting every two weeks. It also held small gatherings and larger events, including a semi-formal to raise money for the nonprofit Rewrite Beautiful. The event functioned as an eating disorder rally with Operation Beautiful, a fashion show that highlighted inner beauty. They also organized a Relay for Life team.

Sophomore psychology major Kathlynn Sergent was positively affected by the Bare Naked Ladies. Sergent enjoyed the group so much that she served as a committee member for the Relay for Life team.

"I've always had a struggle feeling confident in my own body image because you get on Facebook and say 'Wow, I wish I looked like those girls,' but I would go to those club meeting and leave feeling so good about myself," said Sergent.

Bare Naked Ladies was a well-supported campus organization because so were struggling with self-esteem and comparing themselves with the photo shopped models shown in the media.

"Speak up," added Fitzgerald, as she offered as advice to fellow girls on campus. "Because every time someone asks me about [Bare Naked Ladies], it comes up that everyone feels similarly. Body image doesn't have to be a topic to keep quiet because there are going to be a hundred people there for you."

Bare Naked Ladies encouraged others to support the club even if they were not interested in becoming a member because in the end, their mission was to make JMU a more positive and self-accepting place.

WORDS Julia Lewis
PHOTO Madeline Williams
DESIGN Alexis Painter
THAT

AWKWARD

MOMENT

WHEN...

DUKES OPEN UP ABOUT THEIR MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENTS

WORDS: Julia Lewis
PHOTO: Danielle Lerer
DESIGN: Brianne Leach
Junior Nicole Tran demonstrates her reaction to her embarrassing moment. Tran had a mishap with the JMU baseball team.
JMU students are not strangers to their fair share of embarrassing moments. These mishaps ranged from painful trips and falls to awkward encounters with the opposite sex.
Looking around JMU's campus, one might have thought that the students were totally cool and collected, but even the most confident dukes had an awkward moment or two. The embarrassing incidents experienced by students ranged all the way from social missteps to property destruction.

Freshman communications major Andrew Shelley experienced his awkward moment shortly after he arrived at JMU.

"I was chilling in Chick-Fil-A doing some homework, and these two girls came up to me, flirting with me and asking me about myself," Shelley said. "They asked me what year I was, so I said, 'I'm a freshman,' and they were just like, 'Oh,' and walked away."

Freshmen weren't the only ones who had embarrassing stories to tell; junior communication sciences and disorders major Nicole Tran's awkward encounter left quite an impression on the baseball team — and someone's car.

"I was parked in the baseball lot, and the baseball club team was practicing on the side. The ball landed near me so they were like, 'Hey can you throw it over?' So I wind back up, do my baseball stance and throw it, and it hits a car and the alarm goes off. I ran away and they all laughed at me."

For sophomore foreign language and religion double major Devin Boyle, the humor in her incident was obvious, but the embarrassment from it still lingered.

"I was long boarding on campus, and I saw this really cute guy, so I'm like, 'Okay I'm going to show off and look cool,' Boyle said. "I ended up somehow tripping myself and doing, like, six forward rolls. I landed with my legs in the air. It was so embarrassing. I was mortified."

Though her accident was awkward, she walked away without a scratch. Junior English major Casey Sanders could not say the same thing after her incident.

"During Summer Springboard, I was walking down the steps, and I tripped going down. For the rest of the day I was in severe pain, but I was so excited so I kept going," Sanders said. "Three days pass and I see that my foot is purple. It turned out that I broke my toes and I didn't even notice for three days."

Junior English major Katherine Knott had an awkward moment not long after Sanders.

"My first day of classes here, I had to walk up the 'stairs of death' and I came in to TDU because I was lost," Knott said. "I walk in, dripping with sweat, and the girl at the counter goes, 'Oh my god, is it raining?' and I'm like, 'No, I'm just that sweaty.'"

Knott was able to laugh off the encounter, as were all the other students who shared their anecdotes. No JMU student was exactly alike, but these stories made it evident that all Dukes were susceptible to awkward moments. However, with time, these instances evolved into hilarious stories.
RESTAURANTS ON THE ROLL

STUDENTS EXPANDED THEIR HORIZONS WITH FOOD TRUCKS

If D-Hall was not up to par, students took trips to food truck central on South High Street.

When Tacos El Primo showed up in 2005, students became regulars at these mobile eateries. Since then, several food truck stops have gathered downtown and down the highway. The buzz has been nothing but positive since the arrival of the new traveling restaurants Grilled Cheese Mania and Belen’s Thrill of the Grill.

Belen Martinez, founder and owner of Belen’s Thrill of the Grill, and Patrick Simmons, an employee of Grilled Cheese Mania, gave insight into the world of food trucks and how they drew in and satisfied customers throughout the day.

“I originally wanted to sell tapas and gourmet sandwiches, but I quickly realized tapas isn't really a food truck sort of food,” said Martinez, who opened his truck in June 2014.

On the other hand, Grilled Cheese Mania, founded in 2012 by Kathleen Mania-Casesy, did not face any confusion as to what it would be selling. Grilled Cheese Mania’s sandwiches grew very popular in Harrisonburg. The Triple Lindy is a three-cheese and spinach sandwich that swiftly became a customer favorite.

“People love the Triple Lindy,” said Simmons, “but I much prefer the Larold [sandwich],” said Simmons.

At Belen’s Thrill of the Grill, the clientele’s choice was the Virginia Cheese Steak, a cheese steak sandwich cooked and arranged to the preference of Belen himself.

“I created all the sandwiches, so they’re all very much my taste,” Martinez said. “But I love the Virginia Cheese Steak. It’s my go-to.”

The two owners agreed the food truck business in Harrisonburg was booming.

“You meet a lot of cool people,” said Martinez, “all food truck owners are really cool people.”

Simmons also explained how food trucks were a less of a financial risk than running a stationary restaurant.

“Since food trucks are mobile, we can move around to get better business or to cater to the customers, as opposed to a restaurant, where the customers have to come to you,” Simmons said.

Whether you talked to the owners of the food trucks or their very satisfied customers, you would always hear about how the down-to-earth atmosphere of the food truck hub represented the Harrisonburg community.

“Food trucks are a great way to support the local community and get food quickly and at a good price,” said graduate writing, rhetoric and technical communication student Colleen Lentile.

WORDS Dominick McKay & Paige Lobuts
PHOTO Samuel Taylor
DESIGN Megan Rzepka
The food trucks on South High serve up food to students and Harrisonburg locals daily. Trucks included a variety of different cuisines. The area is expected to expand.
Not even snow and ice kept Dukes away from a night of indie music. The negative wind chill couldn't compare to the positive vibes coming from Wilson Hall during JMU's FrostFest.

The University Program Board hosted the event with a strong lineup that included Grizfolk, X Ambassadors and The Mowgli's.

"It was a great opportunity to bring three bands who are very up-and-coming and will be very famous one day," said Hannah Summers, a senior communication studies major. Summers was the Director of Public Relations for UPB.

Grizfolk started off the night of music with "Waiting For You." The band was fresh off a tour with Bastille and they gradually got the crowd more and more excited for the bands to follow.

"Grizfolk was really awesome. I had never heard any of their music before now," said sophomore Bridget Nubonds, a French and communication studies double major. "I'm going to go look them up on Spotify when I get back."

X Ambassadors were set to perform next. This was not the band's first experience performing at JMU; They came to the school in early 2014 as part of UPB's Spotlight Series.

The audience buzzed with excitement as the band set up, and they were not disappointed. Opening with "Free and Lonely," lead singer Sam Harris made the crowd scream with an impressive saxophone solo, by holding the saxophone firmly above his head with one hand as the song came to an end.

The band's distinct sound was described as alternative rock with a funk and R&B twist. Harris had a great range and a raw quality to his voice.

Keyboardist Casey Harris' infectious energy quickly transferred into the crowd and during "Shining," guitarist Noah Feldshuh played an impromptu guitar solo.

The band eventually slowed the tempo with a soulful rendition of "Unsteady." The lights dimmed as the band kept the mood by playing the acoustic long-time fan favorite, "Litost."

The band played some new material before they ended their set with the popular song "Jungle," which was featured in the trailer for the upcoming sequel to "Pitch Perfect." During the performance, the lead singer jumped off the stage and began dancing and singing with students in the pit.

The Mowgli's ended the night with a cheerful and uplifting performance. The seven-member band emanated positive energy into the audience the second they stepped on stage.

The male singer had a wispy characteristic to his voice and their sound differed from the other bands that night, as they also had a female supporting singer.

"It's a great feeling," said Summers about the success of the show. "It's awesome to see the students happy and having a great experience."

The night ended on a high-note and each of the bands were sure to have gained more loyal JMU fans.

WORDS Sarah Callaway
PHOTO Courtesy of the University Program Board
DESIGN Brianne Leach
The band closed the show to a cheering audience.

Grufolk bassist Brendan James plays along with the music. Grufolk opened the show.

Lead singer of X Ambassadors Sam Harris plays the saxophone during "Freak and Lonely." The band used the saxophone in many of their songs.
the end of an

ERA

JMUTEACH CLOSES ITS DOORS

Senior Alexander Parker demonstrates an ice hockey move for the students. Parker taught ice hockey through the JMUTEach program.

Parker shows students a play on his whiteboard. They learned many plays in class.
Among general education courses and seemingly meaningless required electives were classes on puberty, ice hockey and even Spanish regional cultures. Since 2010, students have had the opportunity to take classes called JMUTeach courses.

In the fall of 2009, JMU undergraduates Dan Smolkin and Sandra Tran were inspired to have student-led courses integrated in the academic curriculum after seeing similar programs at the University of California at Berkeley and Carnegie Mellon University.

After developing their proposal with input from the Provost’s Office, Academic Council, University Studies, various faculty and staff members, along with fellow students, the JMUTeach program was added to the curriculum.

"All of the classes are interactive in ways that other classes are not. I think having a student teach a class is a great demonstration for faculty and staff to see how we want to learn because of the student’s ability to design their own course," said senior media arts and design major Molly Hoffmaster.

JMUTeach allowed students to apply to design and teach a one-credit course for a semester. Student facilitators also had the opportunity to see what life was like from behind the lectern.

"I think that I have a greater understanding of how much time, energy and passion is put into a course so that each student has the opportunity to understand a concept in their own way," said senior international affairs major Alexandra Berkowitz. "Everyone learns differently and teaching a course has given me insight into the different ways that professors try to reach their students."

Spring 2015 was the last semester that JMU offered JMUTeach courses. The program discontinued due to lack of student interest and scheduling issues. The leadership team hoped that students would continue to be engaged support other programs that cater to students’ academic interests and passions.

"There were a lot of logistical problems behind the program that were ‘easier said than done’ to be fixed," said Hoffmaster.

The students and mentors both had busy schedules and found it hard to be able balance the course load with other obligations.

"I think that it is sometimes difficult for mentors to monitor the JMUTeach instructors amidst other commitments from both the instructors and the mentors," said Berkowitz. "Unfortunately, I don’t know where students who wish to teach would have a similar opportunity to JMUTeach."

However, the program would still try to hold other opportunities for students to share their passions with others.

"One of the programs that JMUTeach hosts is Duke Talks, which is our own spin on Ted Talks but done by JMU students," said Hoffmaster.

Although JMUTeach courses were coming to an end, it was a program that evolved into an approved way of enabling students to explore atypical subjects in a non-traditional way.

"How many of your friends from different universities can say that they taught or were enrolled in a college class taught by one of their peers? Not many at all," Hoffmaster said.

WORDS Julie Hirschhorn
PHOTO Christina Reilly
DESIGN Alexandra Rathjens
GLOBE TROTTERS
STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS TRAVEL THE WORLD AND GAIN MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES

For many people, travelling the world was only a dream, but for a few Dukes, this dream became a reality.

Senior Chelsea Wilkins knew she wanted to study abroad for a long time. Wilkins, a double major in justice studies and biological anthropology, was always passionate about JMU’s study abroad program and believed that it was an important experience, no matter what obstacles prevented it.

"Many students think that it is too expensive or that it won’t fit in with their major, but there are always scholarships available and there are many staff members who are willing to work with you to make the trip happen," Wilkins said.

Chin Hong Wang, director of study abroad, said that semester-long programs were the most popular, but there was a rise in student interest in more unique trips.

"Many non-traditional programs, such as programs in Africa or Southeast Asia, are still not very popular, but are gaining traction," Wang said.

There was even the option to create your own program. This opportunity depended on factors such as the purpose of the trip, as well as the available credits given by the hosting university.

"I chose to go to South Africa as a part of my own personal education, and since that wasn’t a program through JMU, I set it up myself," said Wilkins, who went to South Africa in the summer of 2014 to conduct research as a part of her senior honors thesis. Her trip was made possible through funding from the Office of International Programming.

There was a wide variety of programs for JMU students of all majors to pick from. Wilkins also attended two week-long trips to the Dominican Republic through the honors program and planned to go back in June of 2015 for a month with other alumni of the program.

"In the honors program there is an area of emphasis and I chose global studies. After I took the required classes, I chose to go on the optional trip to the Dominican Republic over spring break. It was so incredible that I went again the next year, and I plan on going back this summer," Wilkins said.

Another study abroad student was Pooja Rastogi, a senior health sciences major. She was also part of the trip to the Dominican Republic as well and shared how important it was for her to be open-minded and culturally aware during the trip.

Rastogi, like Wilkins, also shared that her favorite memory of the trip was the ability to bring joy into the lives of the children she met while abroad. In one instance, Rastogi was doing an exercise with the kids where they were volunteering to help her out and, in exchange, they received a bobby pin.

"If a girl thinks about how many bobby pins she has lost in even the past month, the limit does not exist. But this little girl smiled, cried tears of joy and wrapped her arms around me faster than I could even process her genuine enjoyment," Rastogi said.

"No matter where JMU students ended up, there was always something to learn, both academically and culturally. JMU’s study abroad program equipped students with the power to become enlightened citizens of the world, fulfilling its mission as an institution of higher learning."

WORDS Hannah Adams
PHOTO Courtesy of Elizabeth Powell, Pooja Rastogi & Chelsea Wilkins
DESIGN Leah Jacobs
An elephant walks across a dirt road in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Senior Chelsea Wilkins visited the country in the summer of 2014.

People explore the beach in Miyajima, Japan. Study abroad programs in Africa and southeast Asia were quickly gaining popularity among JMU students.

Senior Pooja Rasingh lets students in the Dominican Republic braid her hair. She enjoyed doing learning exercises with the students.
Senior Christian DeLeon works on his music when he isn't doing schoolwork. He also worked as a student manager at PC Dukes.
DeLeon takes promotional photos for his brand. His EP was released in November 2014.

DeLeon says his education at JMU helps with his music. He planned to pursue a rap career after graduation.

JMU STUDENT WORKS TO PUSH HIMSELF INTO THE LIMELIGHT

Some students went to college to study their passions. Others discovered what they loved along the way.

One JMU senior, Cristian DeLeon, was working hard to turn his dreams into a reality.

DeLeon, also known by his fans as AV Solo, worked on his rapping career while juggling a full-time school schedule and 30-hour work week.

He was a communications major, a program he chose for its interpersonal skills training.

"People don’t have communications skills anymore, it’s all online," DeLeon said. "I do think it’s a cool thing for people to be invested in. So I think that, paired with a music industry minor, could get me pretty much anywhere I needed to go."

When he wasn’t working on homework or at his job as a student manager at PC Dukes, DeLeon was working in his home studio. On Nov. 4, 2014, he released an EP, featuring a single called "Fast Cars," produced by AV Beats.

This project received more views than DeLeon had ever gotten previously.

"As long as I’m seeing progress and working towards whatever end goal that I’ve yet to develop, I think I’m going to have to stay with it," DeLeon said.

As a senior, DeLeon would soon be thrust out into the real world. However, he planned to use his time at the university as wisely as possible by promoting his music to his peers.

One thing DeLeon struggled with was making sure that he stood out against similar artists.

"It’s difficult to differentiate yourself from people who are less authentic and less driven or motivated to actually make it a career," said DeLeon.

DeLeon began his rapping career in high school. While in a band, he realized he wanted to do something by himself.

When he was in middle school, his friends had gotten him into hip hop music, which greatly influenced DeLeon when he decided to embark on a solo project.

"I set up a mic in my garage and decided to give it a try," DeLeon said. "I did it more and more, and eventually I fell in love with it."

Since the beginning, DeLeon spent much of his personal time and money supporting his emerging career. He credited his enthusiastic work ethic and dedication to his craft as a reason for his success.

"When you eventually get to it, you sit down and lock yourself away in the dungeon for however long it takes," DeLeon said. "The labor of love; you get it done when you can."

DeLeon believed his education only helped his career. While other artists he knew from his home in northern Virginia were working steadily and not attending school, DeLeon thought that the culture at JMU gave his music a different edge.

While fellow students crammed for tests in the library, DeLeon finished homework assignments in between spinning beats on his turntable.

WORDS Elizabeth Wertz
PHOTO Courtesy of Cristian DeLeon
DESIGN Breana Quintero
HEAD UP, EYES OPEN

JMU GOES UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT

It happened in dark rooms of unfamiliar apartments, it happened in shadowed corners of the street in the middle of the night and, according to a study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, sexual assault happened to 19 percent of female college students.

In May of 2014, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights released an official list of 55 colleges and universities, including the University of Virginia and the College of William and Mary, to undergo investigation for possible violations of federal law related to sexual assault.

Since the release, James Madison University was added to the list on June 4, with the University of Richmond and Virginia Military Institute following close behind.

Colleges and universities were added to the list when the U.S. Department of Education determined that the school was not following federal protocol when dealing with cases of sexual assault. Over the summer, JMU came under fire when a specific case went viral, landing on multiple news sites and The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.

According to Joshua Bacon, the director of JMU’s Office of Student Accountability & Restorative Practices, the investigation at JMU had more than a few implications.

“it’ll be good because anytime it’s reported to any faculty or staff administrator, it all goes to a central place,” Bacon said.

All reports now went to a database in JMU’s Title IX office regardless of whether the victim wanted to press charges. Any victim or survivor had the right to choose whether they wanted to press charges, go to counseling or any other option.

“If they don’t want [to press charges] and they are adamant, we respect that wish,” said Bacon. “If [the accused] has been accused multiple times or if it was a violent act, if they had a knife or a gun in the act, or anything that we deem a safety hazard, we may go ahead with charges without the victim.”

Sexual assault was not defined as only rape; any type of sexual misconduct, including inappropriate touching or comments, could be reported by a student. With the undergoing investigation, students seemed to have mixed feelings on how campus handled these reports.

“it’s good that they’re cracking down on this,” said Brandon House, a sophomore engineering major. “it’s very traumatizing. This stuff is real, it actually happens.”

A female freshman health sciences major, who wished to remain anonymous, sometimes worried about her personal safety.

“I make sure I’m always with friends,” she said. “If I’m not comfortable at a place, I won’t drink as much.”

If a student experienced a sexual assault on or off campus, he or she was encouraged to report it to the OSARP. If the student then wanted to go through with charges, he or she had the option to do so through the OSARP or with criminal charges, which would take place off of campus.

With charges through the office, the accused was sent an email issuing a no contact ruling, during which they couldn’t have any contact with the victim or survivor. The accused then needed to set up a meeting with an adviser for the upcoming process. The OSARP provided trained advisers for both the victim and the accused.

Punishment for charges through the OSARP varied.

“In terms of the university, the worst we could do is expel someone,” Bacon said. “They could go right off campus and live in any of these townhouses and any of these apartment buildings around campus, and there’s nothing JMU could do about it.”

Other punishment options included removal of the accused from residence halls and classes that he or she shares with the victim, suspension and no trespassing on campus past a certain date.

“Not talking about a specific case, but some people say ‘Well, why didn’t you just expel them?’ Well, if it’s a type of case that didn’t reach expulsion, suspension is the next step. You might decide to do no trespassing after graduation,” Bacon said. “It’s all based on circumstances and the needs of the victim and the needs of the community.”

The entire process could take anywhere from one to two weeks to a couple of months, according to Bacon. Bacon estimated that an average of four students go through the entire process each year.

Since the investigation began over the summer, the OSARP made a few changes to their system to better serve victims of sexual misconduct.

These changes included the exclusion of students on a review board. Cases went through an administrative option hearing, with an administrator from OSARP and two members of the faculty and staff. After the hearing, the case went to a written appeal. With these changes, the victim only had to tell his or her story once instead of having to repeat it multiple times.

Jon Stewart may have sarcastically called out JMU as the “classic Virginia safety school,” but JMU was constantly working to make campus a safe place for its students.
Two students enjoy alcoholic beverages at a bar. Students had to be very mindful when accepting a drink from a stranger.
ROCK A BYE, BABY

JMU PREPARES TO SAY GOODBYE ROCKINGHAM HALL
One of JMU's most colorful dorms was scheduled to be turned to rubble later this year: Rockingham Hall. Just a ten-minute walk from JMU's main campus with a major highway behind it, Rockingham housed up to 233 incoming transfer, upperclassmen and international students while boasting private bathrooms and rooms 30 percent larger than the average.

The hall was once Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, but was repurposed by the university in 2000 to accommodate the unexpected rise in the number of students in need of housing.

The long commute to the heart of campus and lack of dining options made living in Rockingham a much different experience compared to other on-campus dorms.

"There were a couple of cons to living in Rockingham, but the memories that we made with the people that lived with us made it worth it," said Destine Donovan, a senior marketing and international business double major who lived in the hall her junior year. "We all shared the experience of surviving that dorm!"

Rockingham also posed difficulties for some international students, whose first glimpse of JMU was not traditional campus life.

"I was a little disappointed in the beginning because it was supposed to be on-campus living and Rockingham is kind of off campus," said Sanya Dua, an international student and psychology major who lived in Rockingham in her freshman year. "In the winter it was really hard to walk to from the dorm to the classes if I'd miss the bus because the main purpose of living on campus is that it's supposed to be close to all your classes."

Dua eventually came to love the dorm.

"I honestly feel that it shouldn't be torn down because it's a nice living option for those who have cars," Dua said.

The plans to demolish Rockingham were announced alongside the construction of new apartment-style dorms on West Grace Street, which helped make up for the lost student housing. West Grace Street at maximum could house a whopping 520 students, making it the biggest dorm at JMU.

There were varying combinations of one and two-bedroom units that included a full kitchen and living room. Other features of the dorm included a retail store, residential mailboxes, recreational areas and a restaurant establishment. The unnamed dorm was set to finish construction in May and open in fall of 2015.

"They will start the work immediately after commencement in May," said JMU Associate Director of Communications Bill Wyatt. "It should be done before students get back in the fall."

The demolition of Rockingham Hall and the opening of the apartments on West Grace Street weren't the only changes coming to campus. The reconstruction of Newman Lake, UREC expansion and the opening of the Student Success Center were just some of the latest additions.

It was unclear exactly when Rockingham would be torn down and there were no plans to rebuild on the demolition site. However, the memories created and impressions the hall made on its residents would never be destroyed.

WORDS Lakayla Bonaparte
PHOTO Alexis Painter
DESIGN Leah Jacobs
DUKE STRONG

ROT C STUDENTS BALANCE COLLEGE WITH SERVING THEIR COUNTRY

Many college women had a hard time fitting a trip to the gym a few times a week into their schedules. However, for women in the Reserve Officer Training Corps Army program, getting up at 0430 to start their physical training each day was normal.

“ROTC makes me feel like I am part of something so much larger than myself,” said senior nursing major Erin Brymer.

The morning was a time for strenuous workouts and marching practice. Cadets typically attended this type of strength training three or four times a week.

On top of classes, ROTC students attended a three-hour lecture class. It progressed from learning more about army basics to what it meant to become an army officer.

In addition, a two-hour lab was required for the entire battalion of cadets. This was a time where cadets would learn about army weaponry and first aid skills.

“Once a semester we have leadership development training (LDX) where we spend a weekend in the field applying everything we have learned,” Brymer said, who was a cadet for her entire JMU career. “Since we are all training to be officers, our training is cadet-led and I have really enjoyed it that way.”

During the school year, their hard work prepared them for a long summer training course that involved all the cadets in the country. Brymer attended Airborne School in Fort Benning, Georgia during the summer of 2013, where she learned how to jump out of an airplane with a parachute.

The following summer, she spent time at Fort Knox in Kentucky, testing her leadership abilities in a tactical environment, she also worked in a hospital in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Brymer, a nursing major, was able to combine her two interests last summer during her time at Fort Bragg. She interned in the emergency room at Womack Army Medical Center.

“To use what I learned in nursing and ROTC to help soldiers and their families this summer was amazing. I really feel like I am making a difference,” Brymer said.

Catherine Ambrosich, a senior cadet and nursing major ventured to Fort Knox with Brymer and also traveled to Fort Lewis in Washington state, where she worked at Madigan Army Medical Center on the medical surgical floor.

“I worked and was partnered with an active duty nurse on a unit. While each of us was assigned primary floors, we did rotations with the other units,” Ambrosich said. “I worked in the [Pediatric Intensive Care Unit], labor and delivery and in the operation room with a nurse anesthetist.”

The hospital summer program was a time where cadets could use what they had learned in the classroom, as well as the ROTC program, to gain knowledge of what their career path would be like.

“I learned so much at my summer training program and it was a great refresher for my final year of nursing school,” Ambrosich said.

“I was shocked at how much I was allowed to do as a student and it was an all around great experience.”

After being commissioned in May, Brymer hoped to be stationed in Hawaii as an army nurse and Ambrosich wanted to be stationed as an army nurse in Germany.

Their time in the JMU ROTC program was something that would carry them into their future and help lead them to be successful army nurses.

WORDS Mary Pitts
PHOTO Courtesy of Ryan Restivo
DESIGN Leah Jacobs
ROTC students Catherine Ambrosich, Erin Pace and Erin Brymer pose during a field training exercise. These exercises were weekend-long events meant to train all cadets in skills they’d need in battle.

LEFT ROTC cadets stand at attention with the American flag. When standing at attention, cadets were not permitted to speak or move.

RIGHT Shannon Peebles waits in the woods for her target during a field training exercise.
Most students started thinking about what college they wanted to attend in high school, but some started even earlier.

"I want to be an aerospace engineer. I think it is cool that this program offers scholarships [to help us reach that goal]," said eighth-grader Joshua.

Joshua attended North Fork Middle School and is one of 35 eighth grade students who were selected to participate in the pilot year of the James Madison University Valley Scholars Program.

This program partnered JMU and seven surrounding middle schools with one goal in mind: to help academically gifted students overcome challenges that stood between them and attending college. After five years of participating in the program, students applied to JMU. If accepted, they received financial assistance through the program.

"They will receive a full tuition scholarship to the university. The goal [of the program] now is success in high school," said Shaun Mooney, director of the Valley Area Scholars Program.

Mooney worked as a liaison between the university, the individual middle schools and the children by planning programs that got the children excited about college.

For the first year of the program, there were 13 programming days planned, and each collaborated with different facets of the JMU community.

"We had a programming day with the College of Arts and Letters where students in the communication department dressed up as zombies and simulated a real natural disaster for [the children in the program]," explained Mooney.

The kids had to write a report on the situation and what they experienced. They then took turns broadcasting their stories in the television recording studio, located in the basement of Harrison Hall.

Other programming days included a collaboration with the Office of International Programs where the students learned about different cultures, as well as a partnership with the College of Business, where the students went to the farmers market and created a mock business plan.

"I’ve learned how to manage businesses and how they operate. I possibly want to have my own business one day," said Nigel, an eighth grade student at Kate Collins Middle School.

Programming days like these encouraged the students to think about what they might want to do with their college degree.

As for the future of the program, Mooney and other organizers didn’t have too many details about how the program will run, but were excited about the direction it was heading.

"We are not sure what we are doing [with the returning students] next year, but we do know how the program will function for the new accepted students and we will take applications again for prospective [Valley Scholars]," said Mooney. Mooney also mentioned the possibility of a mentorship program that matched JMU students with each individual eighth grade student.

The Valley Scholars Program may have been new, but its students were already gaining skills and knowledge they’d employ for a lifetime.
The participants of the Valley Scholars Program pose in JMU's recording studio. The studio is a part of the School of Media Arts & Design. **TOP RIGHT** Valley Scholar Nigel raises his hand in participation of a program in Valley Scholars. The middle school students were scheduled for 13 programs in the first year. **BOTTOM LEFT** A coordinator explains a new concept to students. Valley Scholars had to meet GPA and behavioral requirements in order to participate in the program. **BOTTOM RIGHT** A Valley Scholar participates in a Valley Scholars event. Valley Scholars had to be first-generation college students in order to be eligible.
Assistant professor Kim Kannegiher poses with one of the portraits from her wedding. She and her wife were married in 2011 in Washington, D.C.
At Virginia was officially for all lovers.

On Oct. 6, 2014, Virginia passed legislation that allowed same-sex couples to legally marry and same-sex marriages performed legally in other states to be recognized in Virginia. In celebration, students and faculty gathered in front of Wilson Hall upon hearing the news.

"It was such a surprise, it was incredibly exciting," Kara Kavanaugh, an assistant professor of elementary education said. "Nobody knew it was going down that day...I was like 'I have to go celebrate' so I just grabbed our wedding picture and took it [to Wilson] and it was just, it was pure excitement and joy and surprise."

Kavanaugh married her wife, Laura, in 2011 in Washington D.C. Her face glowed with joy as she spoke with a big grin about what the new legislation meant for her and her wife. Their marriage became legally recognized, allowing the couple to file taxes together, visit each other in the hospital and raise their adopted son, Vincent, as a married couple.

"I think there's still work to do, but I was very proud of Virginia," Kavanaugh said.

Students at JMU seemed to be happy with the new legislation, whether it personally affected them or not.

"I think it's actually a good thing. Marriage should just be between two people who love each other," freshman Hannah Johnson said.

As of January 2015, 36 states allowed same-sex marriage, along with Washington D.C. According to the Associated Press, the Supreme Court planned to hear arguments for a nationwide same-sex marriage allowance in April, with a final decision expected in late June of 2015.

"I do think that while even states such as Alabama have come around on marriage equality, there will still be states like Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky that will be holding on to their discriminatory laws until the bitter end," Kavanaugh said in an email. "With a federal law trumping these states' institutional discrimination and unequal treatment of the LGBT community, we are one step closer to justice for all."

Such decisions from the Supreme Court could have had a major impact on same-sex couples in all states, especially those where the marriage wasn't recognized and discrimination was prevalent. Kavanaugh experienced such discrimination in Georgia when she and her wife were in the process of adopting their son.

"They listed my wife as the adopting parent, and I was just another adult in the house," Kavanaugh said. "It was really hard to read that and be seen as, you know, not a married couple or as a parent to this child."

Kavanaugh hoped to fight against discrimination here at JMU. She used her own personal experiences in her classes to teach her students about the different family dynamics they would encounter as teachers of young children.

"Before one of the arguments was like, 'Oh, I don't feel comfortable about this,' but now that it's legalized, it's like, 'This is a part of your job, this is one of the legally recognized family structures,'" Kavanaugh said.

Student groups on campus, such as Madison Equality, worked each year to bring awareness and acceptance to campus for the LGBTQ community. Events on campus, such as GayMU in April, allowed students to learn about the community in a safe environment.

"This moment and this achievement and this law and all of these things, and the way that JMU is now, comes from a long line of people doing really hard work here at JMU to get a safer campus for the law to be passed," Kavanaugh said. "I know there's a lot of people who don't feel safe on campus or can't come out because of their employers or wherever they live, but hopefully this is one huge step in moving us in that direction."

WORDS Elizabeth Wertz
PHOTO Danielle Lerer
DESIGN Alexandra Rathjens
MORE
MONEY,
MORE
PROBLEMS

STUDENTS WORK HARD TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

Senior engineering major Jonathan Smith organizes bags at E-Hall. He was the student manager at the popular East Campus dining hall.
As if moving away from home and living on your own wasn’t stressful enough, some students had the added stress of having to be financially independent. This was the harsh reality that many students had to face when entering college.

Some students were fortunate enough to be able to focus on their academics without worrying about how they would come up with the funds to continue their education. However, with the expense of secondary education on the rise, many students were forced to take out loans every year that accrued interest, increasing debt post-graduation.

In addition to the cost of tuition, students who did not rely on their parents for money had to worry about how they would pay for their rent, utilities, books and groceries.

One student in particular, junior academic major Jacqueline Bowles had to work three jobs in order to cover the costs of living.

“The best part of supporting myself financially is that I am feeling what real life is like now, rather than finding out once I graduate. Once everyone gets out of college, life hits hard,” Bowles said.

Davion Birdsong, a fifth-year senior and studio art major, felt as though he took his studies more seriously due to the fact that he was accountable for reimbursing his student loans.

“If I didn’t take school more seriously, it would be a waste, because at the end of the day it is a lot of money that I don’t have,” Birdsong said.

There were state grants administered to aid students that were unable to afford college on their own. In addition, JMU offered student loans, both subsidized and unsubsidized, and a work-study program for those that were eligible to receive financial aid.

The amount of time it would take the student to pay back his or her loans was sensitive to whether they paid in-state or out-of-state tuition, although in most cases repayment was usually confined to a 10-year plan.

Brad Barnett, senior associate director of financial aid and scholarships at JMU, offered some insight into the obstacles that students who were financially independent encountered throughout their college careers.

“Students think that they’re paying for an experience rather than paying for an education,” said Barnett.

He urged students to first decide what was really important to them in life and then to make a conscious effort to ensure their behavior in school was cohesive with their overall goals in life.

One piece of advice Barnett offered students who were enrolled in his Dollar and Sense financial literacy course was an excerpt from Stephen Covey’s “The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.”

“Begin with the end in mind.”

WORDS Mauro Shaffer
PHOTO Jillian Wright
DESIGN China Boynes
The Jimmy Madison's sign displayed near the front of the restaurant. The motif was intended to seem sophisticated and sleek.

The door to Jimmy Madison's leads inside to its sleek interior. The building was located about a block away from the downtown parking deck.
On Nov. 11, 2014, many people from the Harrisonburg community flocked to Jimmy Madison’s, where the southern cuisine and whiskey bar gave customers a new experience.

The name of the 150-seat restaurant, founded by restaurant owner Jeff Ramsey, was inspired by the JMU community.

The restaurant replaced former JMU hotspot, Dave’s Taverna, which relocated to Port Republic Road in the fall of 2014. Jimmy Madison’s quickly became the new place where students could escape from the everyday stresses of work and college life.

“The atmosphere is bluesy and mellow, and it seems like people want to come in and just relax and enjoy themselves,” said Tim Rouse, Jimmy Madison’s general manager.

Many JMU students, including senior theatre and dance double major Caitlin McAvoy, were drawn in by this atmosphere.

“The vibe was great. Dave’s old green and white motif was replaced by black and other neutrals that made the place feel modern and sleek, but still a little cozy, as a whiskey bar should feel,” McAvoy said.

However, while McAvoy enjoyed the great service, delicious food and reasonable prices, she missed her favorite part about Dave’s: the ability to sit on its rooftop.

“The only sad news is that the waitress said they probably won’t open up the rooftop for some time if ever,” McAvoy said. “That was my favorite part of Dave’s and I wish the new Dukes could get to experience a bird’s eye view of downtown Harrisonburg.”

According to Rouse, the rooftop wasn’t available to Jimmy Madison’s because it was still being leased by Dave’s. They didn’t plan to take over the rooftop portion in the foreseeable future.

The atmosphere wasn’t the only feature that stood out about this new restaurant, its bar was unlike any other in the area.

“We have over 30 different whiskies that we feature, which is different than the downtown beer scene,” Rouse said. “That makes us... unique in town because there’s not another place that features something like that, like whiskey.”

Even though Jimmy Madison’s was popular among JMU students, the customers they served weren’t limited to the college community.

“We have a lot of families that come in and eat, so there are a lot of kids in here any night of the week, really, and that’s always fun,” Rouse said.

But the general manager’s favorite part of the restaurant was the food, which he described as “traditional southern foods with a twist.” These included Mahi Mahi Jambalaya, Shrimp and Grits and Smoked Pork Johnny Cakes.

“Everything on the menu is fantastic,” Rouse said. “He wasn’t the only one who thought so.”

“The food was amazing. I got a Mahi Mahi sandwich and it was honestly the best meal I’ve had in a long time.” McAvoy said. “It was all reasonably priced which was surprising for how good the quality of food tasted.”

To many, Jimmy Madison’s brought more to the table than just good food and drinks; they brought a new world full of sophistication and, of course, whiskey.

WORDS Erin Flynn
PHOTO Kendal Brown
DESIGN Alexandra Rathjens
SEXES

JMU STUDENTS BREAK BOUNDARIES AND STEREOTYPES

WORDS Sarah Callaway
PHOTO Atika Chadha, Paul B. Jones
DESIGN Breana Quintero & Abigail Short
GIRL POWER

TWO STUDENTS PUT A NEW SPARK IN THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

The members of the Society of Women Engineers pose during their chapter banquet. SWE was the Outstanding New Collegiate Section Award in 2014.

It wasn’t quite a man’s world, at least not at JMU. According to the Office of Institutional Research, women made up 60 percent of the total student population in 2012. Despite the overall female majority, there was a noticeable gender gap in certain majors, especially in science, technology, engineering and mathematics—or STEM programs. Nationally and at JMU, women and scientific fields were not very synonymous. Head of the Engineering Department Kurtis Paterson believed this mostly had to do with the early education females received prior to college.

“If you’re starting to doubt that you’re not somehow doing well enough or you’re not good enough, then you start to leave certain subjects,” Paterson said.

The JMU engineering department began in 2008 and became increasingly competitive. As of 2014, the program was only made up of 25 percent women, a number that remained constant.

Although women were thought to be the minority in the engineering program, Paterson said they held a majority of the leadership roles in engineering organizations.

“There are more women represented in the leadership of engineering organizations on campus than their male counterparts,” Paterson said. “In fact, some of them scare me to be honest, because of how much they’re doing.”

The 2013-2014 President of the Society of Women Engineers Mallory Draeger was one of these women. As a 2014 graduate of the engineering department, she experienced the gender gap firsthand, something she thought was intimidating at first.

“I’ve never really been held back by it. If anything, it’s kind of empowering to be better than some of the guys,” Draeger said.

SWE encouraged young girls to get involved and excited about engineering through outreach programs and workshops at middle and high schools.

“It’s really cool, I think, for younger girls to see successful women in engineering; for them to have kind of a mentor, someone to look up to,” Draeger said.

For many women in STEM fields, it was common for them to discount their accomplishments.

“You feel like you got it by on luck and you don’t really feel like you deserve to be where you are,” Draeger said. “The female professors really do everything they can to help the female students out and make us realize that we’re just as good as the guys.”

Olga Pierrakos was one of the 13 professors teaching in the engineering program. However, she was one of only four female professors. This ratio was very high compared to other engineering departments at universities across the nation.

For Pierrakos, her interest in the gender issue began in college.

“I had male grad students say, ‘Well, you only got that award because you’re a woman,’” Pierrakos said. “There was that perception that I didn’t get it based on merit.”

Another proposed solution to achieving a balanced student body was to also work toward a balanced faculty.

“I’d love for it to be 50-50. I think if we can show that, we’ll probably be one of the few engineering programs in the nation that have achieved that,” Pierrakos said.

Although the 2013-2014 freshman engineering class had fewer women than the senior class, one thing was for certain: STEM departments at JMU were constantly striving to increase their numbers and achieve a balanced classroom.

“I have a 3-year-old daughter and my hope for her is that she sees no limits in the world and that she is able to choose what it is she wants to do with no second guessing,” Paterson said.
Senior Ryan Dougherty hangs out on campus in his nursing uniform. Nursing majors were required to do their learning from both classes and applications of techniques.
"There’s definitely a stigma towards it," Senior Ryan Dougherty said. "There’s a connotation to nurses being female. However, in this growing society, there’s a lot more male nurses actually choosing that route."

Women were not the only people who experienced a gender gap in major programs at JMU. Programs such as nursing, as well as women and gender studies, tended to have much higher rates of women than men.

Dougherty always knew he wanted to go into the medical field, which was why he chose to declare the female-dominated nursing major at JMU.

"Ever since I was young I wanted to help give back. Medicine always fascinated me and helping people always did, too," Dougherty said.

Dougherty estimated there were only two male nursing students in his complete nursing class of approximately 87. Dougherty also said he had only come across one other male nurse during program clinicals, which took place in several Virginia hospitals.

The assumption that all women were nurses and men were doctors also became clear during times of patient interaction.

"Half the time I’ve ever been inside the clinicals, always the patients address me before addressing the girl. Half the time I’m in the hospital they think I’m a medical student," said Dougherty. "Patients come up to me and say, ‘Hey Doctor,’ whereas they don’t talk to the girl or ever ask that."

Similar to female engineering students, Dougherty said some were quick to attribute and reduce male acceptance in the nursing program to gender.

"It’s very competitive to get into that nursing program. They said ‘Oh, because you’re a guy you’ll get in right away,’ and that’s not always the case," Dougherty said.

Although men were the minority in nursing, it didn’t seem to hinder success.

"It’s still a great program, I still have a great time," Dougherty added.

Nursing was not the only extremely female-dominated program at JMU. Out of the 40 declared women and gender studies minors in 2014, only four of them were men. Although this number was small, slightly more men took classes in the minor without declaring it.

Despite the male minority, the classroom dynamic was not what one would expect.

"If there’s a particularly outspoken male student, a lot of women will defer to him. You know, if he has his hand up, they won’t put their up, or they’ll sort of agree with him," said Jessica Davidson, coordinator of the women and gender studies program.

Men in minor classes or electives within the program each had their own reasons for taking them.

"Some will say they have like sisters or really good female friends, or strong mothers. I love to hear that, and that’s encouraged them to take it," Davidson said.

Other men had a much simpler reasoning.

"Almost every time I teach it, one of the cheeky men will say they take it to meet women and everybody laughs," Davidson said. "Can you imagine if a woman said that?"

Davidson also emphasized the importance of diversity within the major.

"I would support a man who told me they wanted to minor as much as I would support a woman," said Davidson. "I value sex diversity, but more than that, I value school diversity."
With 13,567 infected and 4,951 deaths as of November 2014, the Ebola virus, primarily centralized in Africa, caused a major health scare and even bigger media frenzy. The Ebola virus was an infectious and often fatal disease marked by fever and severe internal bleeding. The virus works by entering epithelial cells and other immune system cells," said senior biology major McKenzie Quinn. "By debilitating your immune system cells, it's difficult to mount an attack against the virus."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the 2014 Ebola epidemic was the largest in history. It spread throughout multiple countries in West Africa including Liberia and Sierra Leone and had a few cases in the United States. However, CDC professionals said that the risk of an Ebola outbreak in the U.S. was very low.

People made far-fetched remarks on social media following every cough and fever, which only added to the fear. According to McKenzie Quinn, a senior biology major, "When the news reports that a citizen of the U.S. has contracted a deadly virus most people are not going to shrug it off. Ebola has such a high fatality rate that when anyone contracts the virus there is cause for concern."

According to information from the CDC and the World Health Organization, a JMU student's risk of getting Ebola was pretty low. Quinn asserted that living in the US came with the advantage of having ample resources to control the disease.
"We have the man power and infrastructure to contain the infected individuals. Many countries, primarily in west Africa, lack the man power and infrastructure which is why the disease is able to spread more and ultimately kill more people," Steve said. "So, while I understand why people are freaking out and hearing the word Ebola is not the most calming word, but there really is no need to."

This year also happened to contain one of the largest influenza outbreaks in several years. The CDC and other health organizations advised people not to confuse flu symptoms such as fevers and aches with Ebola.

"To stay healthy on campus, practice good hygiene, wash your hands often and keep them away from your face," Quinn said. "Stay home when you are sick, even with a cold or the flu."

People also questioned what the proper protocol should be to deal with the risk of the disease spreading. This included mandating quarantines and travel bans, both of which garnered mixed reactions from the public.

"I think its smart to listen to officials and self quarantine for the allotted amount of time," said Steve. "The U.S. seems to be handling the crisis much better now than when the first patient came to the U.S. and it seems to me the CDC and health officials have it pretty well under control here."

The changing of the leaves brought the change in weather from warm to cool. As for health, sanitizing after sneezing would keep the flu away and Ebola at bay.

WORDS Julie Hirschhorn
PHOTO Selena St. Andre
DESIGN Christina Reilly
DO YOU BELIEVE IN MAGIC!

HIT REGGAE-ROCK BAND MAGIC! TAKES JMU BY STORM

On Nov. 13, 2014, reggae-rock band Magic! hit Wilson stage with a spirited performance. The band was best known for their 2014 single, 'Rude,' which topped charts worldwide.

Opener Dale and the ZDubs performed their own original songs and covers, using popular songs including "Get Low" by Lil Jon. The band had a rock and reggae vibe to their music and lead singer Dale Rodman showed off his vocal talents. His gravelly voice and saxophone breathed life into the music.

"[Dale] jumped down off the stage to get closer to the crowd. He was talking to people in the audience before and after the show and just had a lot of energy all around. It was really cool," said Isabella Broaddus.

The audience was full of energy during the opening act and when it came time for Magic! to play, the crowd roared with even more enthusiasm.

As soon as lead singer Nasri walked on stage with their album-titled song "Don't Kill the Magic" playing, the audience was immediately moving to the beat of the music.

The entire time, Nasri was energetic on stage, dancing along to the music. During "Speak No Evil," he stood next to his guitar player and mimicked his motions with an air guitar of his own.

"He got the crowd involved a lot," said freshman Hunter Dormire. "He was always asking people to clap and dance, and encouraging us to sing along. He came down onto the amps in front of the stage and encouraged the audience to get closer. He made the energy in the room as high as it was."

Multiple times throughout the show, Nasri called out to the crowd, shouting "J-M-U!" and waited for the audience to yell the traditional "Dukes" in response.

Magic! closed the concert with their hit, "Rude," while the lighting in the background changed colors and added to the funky sound of the song.

A few lucky students were chosen to meet the band after the show. Winners of meet and greets were determined through UPB social media contests or given passes at the door. Freshman Grace Aronds was one of the lucky students to win a pass.

"We were first in line for the concert so we won meet and greets," Aronds said. "It was unexpected but made it well worth the wait."

Students had their photos taken with the band and were able to take their own selfies afterward. One girl even made a video of the exchange on Snapchat. The band also signed their set list and gave it away to a student.

The band itself was chosen through a long selection process.

"We survey students to see who they are interested in seeing, then we narrow down our choices based on availability of the bands and our budget," said junior Hannah Sammers, a UPB representative. "A large portion of the choice is in their hands."

The concert left the bands and students wanting more with members of both bands assuring students that they wanted to return to JMU in the future.

WORDS Rochel Crowe
PHOTO Kendal Brown
DESIGN Austyn Monday
Lead singer of Magic!, Nasri, engages with the crowd. In a Rolling Stone interview, the singer said he wrote the hit song, "Rude," in 15 minutes.

Alex Tanas of Magic! feels the beat of the music. Magic! signed their first record deal with Sony Music International in the fall of 2013.
Students relieved some of their end-of-semester stress by getting into the holiday spirit. It was hard to find a dorm room that wasn’t decorated with lights or blasting Christmas music. Fortunately, JMU offered many outlets for students’ winter cheer.

The fifteenth annual Operation Santa Claus, sponsored by the JMU Student Ambassadors, was a must-see event whether a student was a Christmas enthusiast or not. The Oscar-themed show featured performances from JMU’s eight a cappella groups, as well as two dance groups and Maddy Night Live.

The first performances went off without a hitch. However, halfway through a performance of “Santa Baby,” the fire alarm went off. After a few moments of hesitation, the audience was directed to move outside. Despite the mishap, the show went on.

“When the fire alarm happened, this strange calmness stuck with me, and how, still baffles me a bit today,” said senior media arts and design major Anne Sizemore, coordinator and host of the show. “We knew that the situation was out of our control, so we kept a positive outlook in dealing with the confusion.”

Sizemore anticipated that most of the audience would leave after being sent outside, but surprisingly, the majority stayed. In fact, several of the a cappella groups abandoned the scheduled order of performance and volunteered to sing their sets outside while the situation inside was resolved.

“A moment like that just shows the genuine community JMU holds,” Sizemore said. “Particularly during the holiday season, we found it incredibly special.”

In addition to providing the student body with holiday entertainment, Operation Santa Claus raised $2,500 for Harrisonburg-Rockingham Social Services.

Although Christmas was widely celebrated at JMU, Jewish students were also given the opportunity to purchase menorahs on the Commons from JMjews Chabad, a nonprofit organization and Jewish student center, to ensure that students who were still in Harrisonburg during Hanukkah could celebrate.

Students also had the opportunity to participate in a JMU tradition by attending the lighting of the Unity Tree on the Quad, sponsored by the Student Government Association.

President Jonathan R. Alger gave his season’s greetings to the crowd, followed by performances by The Bluestones, Low Key and Madison Project. The Duke Dog was present to take photos with groups as they posed in front of the tree, while hot cider and other refreshments were served.

“Seeing the tree and hearing all the Christmas carols made me excited to go home and celebrate with my family,” said undeclared freshman Julianne Agudo. “I also felt connected to JMU and the people here at the same time.”

While some students enjoyed the cider and singing at the lighting, others took part in a peaceful protest. The protest was sparked by the grand jury decisions not to prosecute police officers in the deaths of Michael Brown from Missouri and Eric Garner from New York.

As the Unity Tree lit up, a large group of students fell to the ground. They stayed there for four minutes and 30 seconds. This symbolized the four hours and 30 minutes Michael Brown’s body was left in the street.

The holidays were all about togetherness and it was only natural that many of students of JMU, a school that prided itself on that sentiment, celebrated with enthusiasm.
Students attend the traditional lighting of the Unity Tree. On the left, a group of students protested the deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner.
Senior Abby Purlin displayed her brace she was required to wear to help with walking. She was required to wear the knee brace every day to help with walking.

Senior Abby Purlin shows off the hand-drawn decorations on her brace. She set up an appointment with the Office of Disabilities that helped her get around campus efficiently.
The diversity of JMU's student population was much more intricate than what could be seen on the surface. Sometimes the biggest differences were not easily seen or understood. For students with disabilities, life at JMU came with its own specific set of obstacles to overcome.

Scarlet Racey, a freshman social work major, developed glaucoma at age eight, which caused her to have limited vision in her left eye and complete blindness in her right. Despite these limitations, Racey took on her first year of college with confidence.

"A lot of people think that it's a lot harder than it really is," Racey said. "I understand people want to help. They have big hearts. But I'm just like 'I can do this.'"

Certain aspects of life at JMU, such as driving or walking around at night, were much more difficult for Racey. However, the Office of Disability Services worked hard to accommodate disabled students according to their individual needs, so that everyone was provided with equal opportunities to succeed.

"I receive all of my exams in large print," Racey said. "I don't use scantrons and I take them in a testing center at the Student Success Center."

Abby Perlin, a senior biology major, suffered from osteoarthritis in her left knee, which required her to wear a knee brace every day.

"It definitely makes my life here at JMU a little bit more complicated," Perlin said. "It's hard for me to do a lot of walking or standing, especially with hills, stairs and that sort of thing."

Perlin also praised JMU's Disability Services for their helpfulness despite her initial hesitation to reach out to them for assistance.

"I'm really happy that I went ahead and registered," Perlin said. "I just figured that I wasn't disabled enough to need anything. But as I walked more and more, the arthritis got more and more painful."

After a meeting with her doctor and the Office of Disability Services, an individual plan was set up to help Perlin get to her classes more efficiently.

"Now I'm allowed to be a couple minutes late to my classes, because I can't just run or ride a bike across campus," said Perlin.

Not every disability was clearly visible to others. Some were less obvious, and while they were still very difficult to live with, they were often overlooked by those who did not understand them.

"Before I had my brace, I didn't look disabled. So no one really understood," Perlin said. "I have a handicapped parking permit and people give me weird looks all the time when I'm parking there. Like, you don't know what I'm going through."

Raja Abdul-Badee, a freshman writing, rhetoric and technical communication major, had retinitis pigmentosa, a condition which caused her vision to slowly deteriorate until she became legally blind. Despite the occasional use of a cane, Abdul-Badee did not always look the part of a student with disabilities.

"When you first look at me, I don't look like I have a disability," Abdul-Badee said. "Over the years, I've lost many people because they just can't understand."

Abdul-Badee also had a plan designed specifically for her with the Office of Disability Services. The plan included special accommodations to help her take tests and study for class.

"I have extra time for my tests and I can rearrange the [final exam] dates," Abdul-Badee said. "I have to read everything in 18-point font. Then I take notes using my recorder, so I don't have to write anything out."

Whether noticeable or not, the students with disabilities at JMU added their own individual spark to the diversity of our campus. Through the support of the JMU community, they were given an equal opportunity to achieve their goals alongside their fellow Dukes.

WORDS Michelle Criqui
PHOTO Veronica Garcia
DESIGN Ashley Curtis
CULTURE SHOCK

JMU BECOMES HOME TO STUDENTS ALL OVER THE WORLD
Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, China and Japan: these were only a few of the countries from which international students at JMU hail. The university was known for being a home away from home to students not only from Virginia and other states, but for people around the world. Each experience an international student had was unique and celebrated the diversity on campus.

Junior international affairs major, Vanina Waingortin, was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, but also lived in Uruguay, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico and Virginia. She decided to attend JMU because of students' strong spirit and hospitality.

"JMU has welcomed me with open arms since the first time I stepped foot on campus, and since the day I committed to attending, I told myself I would give back and hopefully provide someone else with the same warmth and love," Waingortin said. "Since the beginning of the semester we all relied on one another for support when missing our families," said Waingortin. "One of the best parts of having a united international student community is that during the weekends when local students go to their homes, we all do activities and hang out."

International students brought a multitude of different perspectives and experiences that shaped this campus, while learning from others.

"International students have the power to change the stereotypes other students who haven't been exposed to different cultures might have about them by sharing their culture," Koczot said. "They force students to go outside their comfort zone and embrace the differences they might have with others."

As of fall 2013, there were 411 international students at JMU and the program continued to expand.

"We are proud of where we come from, but more proud to share our country and culture with others," Koczot said.

WORDS Julie Hirschhorn
PHOTOS Kendal Brown
DESIGN Breana Quintero
Students confront Preacher Ross Jackson face on. Other students watched and filmed the spectacle.

Crowds of students gather outside of Carrier Library to watch Jackson. Police were called in to patrol the area.

Students hold up signs in protest of Jackson's speech. The campus banded together against hate.
JMU students banded together to fight hate speech after the campus was rocked by the presence of a controversial preacher. On Sept. 16 and 17, Ross Jackson, preacher and founder of Revival Mission Ministries, visited JMU's campus to preach to students and admonish them for their sins against God. Hundreds of students stood outside Carrier Library to listen to Preacher Ross condemn everyone from sorority and fraternity members, to homosexuals and anyone whose beliefs did not align with his own.

"Nowhere in the Bible does it say that God loves you no matter what and forgive your sins," Jackson said. "This is a liberal mindset, an unbiblical mindset. Number one, they must submit to Christ." Students found his words to be hateful and discriminatory and chose many different methods to express their disapproval. Some students chose to directly fight back by arguing and yelling at Jackson. Senior English major Jessi Covington was shaking in anger as she stood on a ledge and screamed at the preacher.

"It's not an act of love to tell someone they're going to hell," Covington yelled. "I will gladly see you in hell!"

Other students met Jackson's words with unusual gestures and signs to get their message across. One male student held up a sign about masturbation in response to Jackson's constant rebuking of the act. An anonymous biology major wore a horse mask and held up signs in protest of Jackson.

"I wanted to taunt him with something absurd," the anonymous student said. "I'm proud that so many students are responding like this. He came to the wrong campus to be ignored."

Some students from religious groups wrote tolerant and loving scripture on signs in an attempt to refute Jackson's words and show other students who were skeptical about the Christian faith that Christianity was not a hateful religion. Other students held up signs saying things like "God doesn't hate you."

"I am a Christian and I don't agree with anything he is saying," said junior English major Andrea Croft. "He is spreading hatred, not love, and distorting the word of God."

Members of JMU's on-campus Christian organization, InterVarsity, banded together to sing the hymn "How He Loves," as a form of protest against Jackson's homophobic and hateful message. A YouTube video of the singers went viral and was covered on the local news as well as national sources like USA Today, Reddit, The Blaze, and Huffington Post.

"This is the way you handle it," Glenn Beck said on his radio show.

"This is the perfect example of: You do not defeat it with love. You don't defeat it with anger. You defeat it with joy."

According to JMU police, Jackson was arrested for assault and battery on Sept. 18 when he was preaching outside of Carrier Library, but was released in the afternoon. JMU police ultimately issued a no trespass warrant which meant that he would be subject to immediate arrest if he ever returned to campus.

While many were angered by Jackson's words, students reacted with pride and positive attitudes. Most were blown away by the overwhelming support shown by the JMU community.

"Everyone - no matter what race, what religion, what year, or if they were LGBT - stood up for each other and preached love over hate," said freshman media arts and design major Emma Korynta in a Facebook message. "My friends from other schools say that when this man visits, they just ignore. I guess this just proved that 'dukes step up' is more than just a saying."
Biting Back

JMU Alumni Create Technology Featured on ABC

JMU students were encouraged to "Be the Change." Two 2014 graduates took this to heart and made it big.

Bill Shuey and Kyle Byrd took their idea, the Amber, on screen with ABC's hit show "Shark Tank," landing a spot on the season premiere. "Shark Tank" was a reality show in which entrepreneurs, called the "Sharks," heard pitches of products and decided whether or not they'd like to invest in the inventors and their product.

Shuey came up with the idea in the well-known Harrisonburg hangout, Billy Jack's Wing and Draft Shack. While at the bar with a dying phone, he wished he had the convenience of charging his phone. That's where Amber came in.

The Amber used fingerprint scanning technology to trigger the opening and closing of protective screen doors, allowing people to leave their phones on the wall to charge as they did things elsewhere. It was designed to allow multiple people to charge their phones simultaneously and securely in public places.

Shuey and Byrd met to design the unit, and the pair was contacted by ABC to be on "Shark Tank" while they were still developing their product in the pre-revenue stage.

"I always joke with Bill that we wouldn't be friends if it weren't for Amber," said Byrd.

The Shark Tank entrepreneurs didn't necessarily take a liking to the product. They made some harsh comments in respect to the product, especially Kevin O'Leary, a "Shark" with expertise in journalism and software. O'Leary tore into the pair with harsh criticism before turning down their proposed deal of $200,000 investment for a 20 percent stake in their company.

"I have to hire you both so I can fire you. This is so horrible. How do you think this has any chance of surviving and working? I hate this so much. It's incredible. It's one of the worst ideas I've ever seen," O'Leary remarked.

Even though they didn't receive the reactions they had hoped for, the recent graduates agreed that they didn't regret going on the show.

"Any publicity is good publicity," Byrd said. "I'm from a small town so it's crazy for the whole world to be talking about us, especially when it came to trending on Twitter."

Just a few months after their appearance on the show, the pair had made changes to their product and addressed the issues had by the Sharks.

The total cost of the unit went down to only a fraction of what it was projected to be in development, allowing them to give away units for free in the beginning and draw in revenue with a pay-by-charge system.

This meant individuals would pay to charge their phones using an app called the Amber Enterprise. Purchased in addition to the charging unit itself, Amber Enterprise could raise a projected $200 per month for a company by allowing customers to pay $1.50 per charge.

The units started selling about three months after their appearance on the show. The 9:30 Club and a Smithsonian museum in D.C. were among the first customers.

Both Shuey and Byrd agreed that their interests lay within the field of conceptual design and production.

"We always have new ideas and we're always working on something," said Byrd. "Amber is at the forefront right now and whatever comes up in the future we'll work with that, if one thing doesn't succeed then it's on to the next idea."

Even with their recent success, the two entrepreneurs frequently visited Harrisonburg to do business and keep up with old acquaintances.

"Chiedo Labs is our mobile app and web developer and that's all run by JMU graduates," said Byrd. "We try to keep our business in the area where it originated when it comes to warehouse space."

In addition to the Harrisonburg community itself, they tried to keep up with their ties in the university. Recently, Shuey spoke to the Society of Entrepreneurs, which he cofounded in 2011.

"We always stay in touch with professors and nowadays they are more like advisers than anything else," Byrd mentioned. "A friend of ours joked that you really know your time at JMU is up when you visit and have to spend the night in a hotel."

Even when their ideas took off, JMU graduates kept in touch with their home on campus. As Amber gained its footing in the market Shuey and Byrd stayed true to their roots, showing that hard work and determination paid off but also that they didn't forget where they came from.

WORDS Rachel Crowe
PHOTO Griffin Harrington
DESIGN Megan Rzepka
The Amber showcases its sleek design. The new technology attached to the wall to minimize clutter.

Kyle Byrd presents his invention. Byrd was not discouraged by the Sharks' refusal to invest.

The Amber demonstrates its use in a bar. The inventors aimed to help both customers and employees with their invention.

Bill Shuey listens intently during a presentation. Shuey came up with the idea for Amber while in a Harrisonburg restaurant.

The Amber invention shows an example of its potential use. Amber used fingerprint technology to keep the phones safe.
SAFE & SOUND?

STUDENTS DISCUSS WAYS TO STAY SAFE ON AND OFF CAMPUS

The blue emergency lights scattered around campus did little to offer comfort to students in light of recent events. Incidents such as the tragic murder of UVA's Hannah Graham darkened the general outlook upon lonesome sundown travel.

According to The Washington Post, Hannah Graham went missing on September 14, sparking national despair as a search for the student ensued. Jesse Matthew, the person last seen with Graham, was charged with abduction with intent to defile on September 23. On October 18, human remains were found outside rural Charlottesville. The remains were confirmed to be Graham's on October 24. Matthew was also forensically linked to the 2009 disappearance and death of Virginia Tech student, Morgan Harrington.

While some felt as though the safety issue resided within society as a whole, many believed college campuses did not provide sufficient protection for their students.

"I don't feel unsafe walking alone at JMU at night, but I feel uneasy," said sophomore kinesiology major Kaitlyn Kissane.

Kissane felt that the university could have taken more precautions to keep students safe.

"JMU could get more of those emergency call boxes, because they are few and far between," said Kissane.

Freemason media arts and design major Brenda Tapp held similar feelings toward JMU's nighttime securities.

"I would feel slightly more comfortable if there were more well-lit areas. Some extra lights would be nice," Tapp said.

JMU offered several safety services to its students, such as the Campus Cadets program and the newly developed smart phone application, "LiveSafe."

"LiveSafe" allowed its users to report any suspicious behavior they encountered and also had a map feature that displayed all local and recent suspicious behavior reports. The map noted nearby safety zones and notified the user of all crime reports from the week before as well.

The application also had an in-app emergency call feature and an in-app program called "SafeWalks" that allowed the user to share their current location with friends.

"LiveSafe makes walking home late at night less intimidating. It provides sort of a safety net that wasn't there before I had the app," said sophomore nursing major Laura Mills.

The application also allowed the user's friends to view a map of the other person's location and contact the police if necessary. This application added security for students at night and helped them to feel safer.

The campus police said they had not changed much in the way that they patrol, but there was a raised level of awareness within the community.

"Our escorts are up and also we see more groups walking now instead of the lone individual," said JMU Chief of Police Lee Shiflett in an email. "In speaking with our community it is apparent that they are watching out for each other and not afraid to intervene if needed."

Shiflett mentioned that the campus police had seen an increase in the reporting of suspicious activity and encouraged safe practices among JMU students.

"Be aware of your surroundings and trust your instincts. If something/someone appears out of the ordinary then report the situation immediately and not 15 minutes later," Shiflett said. "This delay could not only affect your safety but also the safety of your community. Utilize the on campus escort system, safe rides and even public transportation whenever possible. Do not let a friend walk alone. Look out for each other and intervene when necessary."

Many of JMU's students shared a feeling of unrest when they were alone on campus at night.

"I don't feel particularly safe anywhere at night. The dark is an issue. I'm worried, not because of anything JMU-related, but because I'm a conscious person about my safety," Tapp said.

In addition to the LiveSafe app, Campus Police and the Campus Cadets program, there were alternate ways to stay safe.

"I always carry my mace, even in the middle of the day," Tapp said.

While the nighttime world had its fair share of fears and jeers, there were multiple safety precautions individuals could take in order to gain optimal security for themselves on any late-night jaunt.

JMU, along with many other colleges, continued to ramp up patrol and security so students could both feel safe and be safe.

WORDS Dominick McKay
PHOTO Kendai Brown
DESIGN Alexandra Rathjens
A student takes advantage of an emergency blue light. Pressing the button would immediately call the police.
Every teenage girl dreamed of marrying a member of *NSYNC in 2001. For one JMU alumna, that dream came true.

Karly Kirkpatrick, formerly Skladany, and former *NSYNC member Chris Kirkpatrick were married on Nov. 2, 2013 at the Loews Portofino Bay in Orlando. They chose the Italian-themed resort as their venue because their engagement occurred in Isle of Capri, Italy.

The couple met in Orlando after Karly’s graduation from JMU in Orlando. At the time, she was working for the Orlando Magic basketball team.

In an email interview, Karly talked about her friends’ reactions to the presence of *NSYNC members at the wedding. “It was a big surprise for a lot of our guests. The wedding was kept very secretive leading up to the big day,” said Karly. “We even used a different name for everything dealing with the wedding. Needless to say, when our guests showed up they were all pretty surprised when the boys (band members) were the ones ushering them to their seats.”

Everyone from her college friends to his bandmates and family members helped to welcome the new couple. “Everyone had a blast, and it was great for Chris and I to have all our friends and family all under the same roof,” Karly said. Karly viewed her husband’s career with a positive attitude, noting benefits that it brought into her life. “I have been lucky enough to be able to be a part of so many cool events with Chris… the one moment that sticks out in my mind was when *NSYNC surprised everyone and got back together last year on the MTV Video Music Awards,” Karly mentioned. “It was awesome to see them back up on stage laughing and having a blast.”

She also talked about ways in which she got to be involved in his life as a public figure. “I enjoy being a part of all the charity events Chris puts on. He is involved in so many great causes each year and even started his own charity, the Chris Kirkpatrick Foundation, which helps all the underprivileged kids in central Florida,” Karly said.

Karly described her new life as a married woman as being the beginning of a new chapter. “Chris and I are about to celebrate our first year of marriage,” Karly said. “We have been lucky enough to travel a lot in the past year and enjoy the married life. Now, we are both ready to start our family.”

Even with everything currently going on in her life, Karly finds ways to stay connected with JMU. During her time as a Duke, she was a sports management major and played for the JMU Women’s Soccer team.

“I am still very close with a lot of my soccer girls. We try and get together at least twice a year, whether it’s on a work trip or we actually sit down and plan something. We all really formed a bond over our four years at JMU and I am so grateful for all them,” Karly said.

When it comes to faculty, she remained in touch with one primary figure: her soccer coach. “I stay close with Coach Lombardo, whether it’s through following the team on the Internet or sending him funny texts. He was the best coach you could ever want to have as a player,” Karly said.

Karly’s life may have taken a much different path than most, but it seems JMU students stuck to their roots, even when they rubbed elbows with the rich and famous.

WORDS Rachel Crowe
PHOTO Courtesy of Karly Kirkpatrick
DESIGN Alexandra Rathjens
The members of *NSYNC were at the wedding of Chris Kirkpatrick and Kelly Simpson. This was the final member of the group to get married. Chris was planned to be married with Lance Bass set to be married in Dec. 2013.

The happy couple married in 2011.
Senior Emily Smith and fiance Pierce McKean pose on the Kissing Rocks. The couple met at JMU when McKean was visiting from VMI.

SAY YES TO THE DRESS

JMU LOVE IS FOREVER
Senior Kathleen Runyon and her husband Nate smile in these wedding photos. The couple met sophomore year of high school.

Love was in the air at JMU. While some students came to college dating their high school sweethearts, others, including senior psychology major Kathleen Runyon, chose the long distance route.

Kathleen and her husband Nate, a member of the Air Force, met sophomore year of high school. They dated for about six months and then broke up after they both moved away. However, they continued to stay in touch.

The couple started dating again when Nate moved back to Virginia and on Dec. 27, 2013, he proposed where they had their first date.

“We were talking about the future and visiting his family in Germany, and he told me he wanted me by his side for life,” Kathleen said. “He got down on one knee and asked me to marry him.”

Kathleen and Nate got married on July 2, 2014, with 80 people in attendance, including seven bridesmaids and three groomsmen.

“It was a very modest wedding. But it was very special,” said Runyon. “It was all about the love, not about the material things.”

The biggest change Runyon noticed was the couple’s future-oriented mindset, outlook and communication.

“We are more supportive of each other and we aren’t afraid to talk about the real stuff and address the real issues,” Kathleen said. “Whereas I feel like people in relationships may be afraid to because they’re so worried about keeping that good impression and not driving the person away.”

Many JMU students, including senior biology major Benjamin Kronlein met their significant other through mutual friends.

Kronlein met his fiancee, senior history major Bre Anna Alger through a friend in the Campus Crusaders for Christ band.

He proposed to Alger when the couple was on a date at Reddish Knob, a Shenandoah Valley summit and popular hiking destination.

“I had one of our friends hiding in the bushes taking pictures the whole time,” Kronlein said. “It was supposed to be sunset but clouds prevented that.”

Despite the less than ideal weather, the couple, whose wedding was set for May 14, 2015, was happy about the outcome of the pictures.

To Kronlein, the biggest difference about being engaged was the couple’s conversations, particularly “the level of reality and weight that conversations hold, as compared to dating. It is no longer a hypothetical situation, but instead it is ‘when,’ rather than ‘if,’” he said.

Senior business management major Emily Smith met her fiance Pierce McKean freshman year when he and his roommates were visiting JMU from Virginia Military Institute. Eventually, the two began dating.

McKean proposed to Smith on Oct. 18, 2014 when they were hiking House Mountain in Lexington, Va.

“On our way back down the mountain we stopped at an overlook and had me looking out at the valley, and when I turned around he was down on one knee,” Smith said.

The wedding was scheduled to take place on Oct. 11, 2015 and, for Smith, the hardest part about being engaged while in school was juggling classes and planning the wedding.

“It’s hard trying to concentrate on classes when all I want to do is wed ding stuff, and also not being able to live with my fiance yet,” Smith said.

Kaitlin Thomas, a senior hospitality management major and Student Government Associate student body vice president, also found that planning her wedding could prove challenging.

Thomas spent her last year of school planning her Nov. 8, 2015 wedding with her fiance Matthew Klein, a 2013 graduate.

While planning the wedding and finishing school could prove to be somewhat hectic, Thomas found that staying organized made it easier. This included setting time aside each day to make sure it was getting the attention it deserves.

“IT’s not easy, but it’s not impossible,” Thomas said. “Planning a wedding takes time so I make sure to dedicate enough time to it.”

Thomas met Klein her freshman year when she was running for class council and he was the junior class president.

Thomas and Klein continued getting to know each other through SGA and InterVarsity events. As their relationship progressed, they began their own set of traditions, such as apple picking at Carter’s Mountain orchard every fall. On Nov. 2, 2014, they continued that tradition, but with a bit of a twist.

As the two were walking toward a row of apples, a couple of balloons that were hanging in a tree with a piece of paper that had her name on it caught Thomas’ eye.

“At first, I thought we were going on a scavenger hunt, since we just celebrated our three year anniversary the previous week,” she said. “Little did I know, when I walked up to the balloons, Matt was slowing his pace, and when I read the note attached that said ‘turn around,’ he was on one knee with a box in his hand!”

While each love story was different, many JMU students would be unable to forget the university that stole their heart.
MAKING IT COUNT

JMU STUDENTS CROSS THINGS OFF THEIR "BUCKET LISTS" DURING THEIR COLLEGE CAREERS

A student drops his clothes to streak the Quad. Students had to make the drafty run without being caught by campus police.

One popular bucket list activity is stealing bricks from the pathways on the Quad. In the springtime, the walkways would be covered in holes from the missing bricks.
A 'bucket list' was commonly known as a list of things one aims to accomplish in his or her lifetime. Students at JMU, however, only have four or five short years to accomplish everything on their JMU bucket lists.

While some students aimed to streak the quad or swim in Newman Lake, others considered less risky tasks, like getting lunch with a professor or visiting the puppy farm.

Nate Rivers, a senior biology major, said that his own personal JMU bucket list was compiled of both risky and memorable tasks. He said that the riskiest thing on his list was to discover and explore the infamous tunnels rumored to be located beneath the quad.

"I like adventure, and it's definitely risky. Other than that, I also want to take a little piece of JMU with me after I leave," said Rivers. "Maybe not a brick from the Quad, but something small that holds significance."

Many students dreamed of visiting the famed tunnels before they walk at graduation. The tunnels were built as passageways beneath the quad that students could use if the weather was bad. Although they were closed off years ago, most students would do almost anything to be able to see them.

"I want to go in the tunnels, because that's a thing people need to do before they leave here," junior hospitality management major Natalie Van Fleet.

Rivers also explained that the most meaningful item on his JMU bucket list was to work for JMU's Orientation - whether this meant being a FROG (First Year Orientation Guide), an OPA (Orientation Peer Advisor), or a volunteer or orientation assistant that works behind the scenes to make sure orientation runs smoothly.

Rivers served as an OPA during JMU's Summer Springboard and 1787 August Orientation in 2014.

"It's honestly not outrageous that [working for orientation] should be on everyone's bucket list. It's the type of thing we can all help out with," Rivers said. "It gives you a chance to share your experiences and stories from when you were a first year student. We all have advice and skills to pass along and help build this legacy at JMU."

Alex Richards, a senior marketing major, said that his main goal before graduating was to steal a brick from the quad and decorate it. "I would probably decorate it with something to do with my club cross country team. It's the best way to have a special piece of JMU that you can personalize yourself," Richards explained.

While some students daydreamed about studying abroad in Europe or Asia, other students simply wished for success in their most challenging courses and to ace their exams.

"I know it's cliché, but I really want to be successful in my classes. It would be cool to be published; I'm doing a lot of Communications research papers right now."

Not all students come up with their bucket lists immediately; it's something they build throughout the years as their experience and love for JMU grows.

"I honestly didn't have this bucket list made during my freshman year, but I'm happy I've done a lot of these things," Rivers said. "It's brought me to great places."

WORDS Ashley Curtis & Abby Short
PHOTO Jillian Wright
DESIGN Austyn Monday
Newman Lake, famous for its dyed water, ducks and fountain, was always a charming spot on campus. Over the summer, rumors circulated about its sudden draining. Many students assumed the university was building a new dormitory or parking lot.

The man-made lake was created in the 1960s. Draining was required in the 1970s due to algae, but unfortunately, that did not solve the issue and dredging was needed.

The fountain in the center of the lake was given as a gift in 1996, which made it into the quaint place that most students knew and loved. In 1998, there was another draining when police were looking for the body of a missing Harrisonburg resident. A body was never recovered and the lake was then refilled. Decades later, the lake became a welcoming entrance into the university.

At the beginning of this past summer, the lake was drained as part of a dam recovery project. According to William Wyatt, the Associate Director of Communications and Deputy University Spokesman, the construction was imperative.

"Improvements are being made to bring the roadway dam into compliance with the new Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation regulations," Wyatt said in an email interview. The changes were set to be completed in February 2015.

Wyatt also said the goal of the project was to "increase the capacity of the spillway, widen the roadway and install armor on the face of the dam."

A bench on the lake's outskirts would also be new and there would be a ten-foot wide walking path along Bluestone Drive. There were plans to upgrade the fountain as well.

Many students on campus were disappointed in its appearance when they arrived back to school in late August. For students and especially Lakeside residents, they felt that the empty hole was an eyesore.

"Living near Newman Lake, I was excited to get a lovely view from my dorm. Unfortunately, it was more like receiving a bowl of ice cream with no ice cream in it," said freshman communications major Britney Tingstrom. "It looks a bit sad and construction is almost constantly happening. But the saddest part is the ducks all lay on the empty surface."

Tingstrom wasn't the only student unhappy with the Newman Lake construction. "Finding out I was living in Lakeside this summer was exciting until I came to school and saw the dark pit once known as Newman Lake. Discovering its destruction was an extremely significant bummer. If we cannot have air conditioning or Wi-Fi, please give us a lake," said Katherine Lachline, a freshman psychology major and Shorts Hall resident.

Despite the bleak appearance of the lake, students were curious to know the purpose behind it and thankful that it would be returned to its former glory before the 2015 graduation ceremonies took place.

WORDS Mary Pitts
PHOTO Breanna Young
DESIGN Leah Jacobs
Newman Lake in the spring. Students sat around the edge when the weather warmed up.

Newman Lake in the winter. Ducks were nowhere to be found when snow fell.

Newman Lake through the seasons at JMU. The lake was drained as part of a dam recovery project over the summer.
Members of the a cappella group Low Key. Left to right: Radhika Divatt, Cynthia Kim, John Long, Hannah Collins, Austin Harbrink, Donya Mosazdeghi, Claire Morris, Peter Weeks, Nathan Drucker, Diana Ryals and Nguyen Nguyen.

Members of Low Key warm up to begin practicing their songs. Warming up was an important part of the process.
The movie "Pitch Perfect" popularized a cappella groups everywhere when it hit theaters in 2012. At JMU, there were eight different a cappella groups, each with their own individual style and flare.

One such group was the women's Christian a cappella group, Into Hymn, whose mission was to share the gospel and love of Christ through music. Megan Grasman, a senior hospitality management major and president of Into Hymn, fondly remembered initiating the new members in the beginning of fall semester. Into Hymn took their new singers blindfolded to the steps of Wilson, sang them a song cherished among the members and then gave them gifts.

"The night you get in is always so memorable," Grasman said. "The way the community welcomes their new members is so loving and unreal."

Afterwards, Into Hymn joined the rest of the a cappella groups at IHOP for a late-night dinner together.

For the Madison Project, a male a cappella group led by president Daniel Patrick, the weekend following auditions was a huge bonding experience for the men.

"One tradition we have is to take the new members hiking up Reddish Knob if it is warm enough and sing for whoever is at the top of the mountain when we get there," Patrick said, a junior media arts and design major.

Singers in the coed group, Low Key, participated in similar bonding experiences. In the beginning of the fall semester, they went camping to welcome the new initiates into the group.

"That is how Low Key started fifteen years ago," said senior communication studies major Donya Mossadeghi. "A bunch of friends went camping, started singing and decided to start their own a cappella group on campus."

As the president of Low Key, Mossadeghi was especially careful to make the camping trip extra welcoming to the new members by showing them certain group traditions and teaching them special group songs.

While each individual group had their own traditions, some of the events were shared by the whole a cappella community. During family weekend in October, all eight a cappella groups participated in an event called A Cappella Thon.

"A Cappella Thon and Sing Out are both incredible," Grasman said. "Any event that involves the whole community is always so much fun."

Sing Out was another community-wide event where every group learned choreography to go along with their songs. Then they performed their pieces for the JMU student body over two nights in March.

Another event gave the groups a chance to give back to the community while doing what they were passionate about: Relay for Life.

"That was really special for us, seeing as how many of our groups members have connections with cancer," Mossadeghi said.

With so many ways JMU students spent their time in college, the members of a cappella groups made themselves known throughout JMU. Between lifting the spirits of others through song and helping raise money for those affected by cancer, the singers of JMU's a cappella groups knew how to shine bright.

WORDS Hannah Adams
PHOTO Hannah Adams
DESIGN Christina Reilly
RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

STUDENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS REFLECT ON THEIR FAITHS

WORDS Hannah Adams
PHOTO Courtesy of the Chabad Jewish Student Group, the Muslim Student Association and InterVarsity
DESIGN Veronica Garcia
Some JMU students passively practiced their religions. But for a few Dukes, religion was something they chose to actively pursue when they entered college.

"With religion, you don’t need to make someone stay, they need to choose it," said senior biotechnology major Monica Chowdhury. Chowdhury served as the president of the Muslim Student Association, an organization that strove to offer a home to Muslim students.

Not only was there a home organization for almost every religion, but there were also several faith-based organizations that celebrated their faith in a practical way. One such organization was the Shenandoah Valley Justice Initiative at James Madison University, or SVJI-JMU, which practiced the Christian faith and applied it to real life issues.

"Our main goal is to spread education and awareness of what human trafficking and create modern day abolitionists to end modern day slavery," said senior Austin Earlenbaugh, president and founding member of SVJI-JMU.

SVJI-JMU was an organization that used a foundational belief in Jesus Christ to work toward solving the issue of human trafficking. Earlenbaugh was majoring in justice studies and planned on going to law school when he graduated from JMU in May of 2015.

"I was a part of a group of five guys that all had a passion for seeing the end of human trafficking and doing that as a career in one capacity or another," Earlenbaugh said.

Other students shared Earlenbaugh’s passion for using their faith to help change the evils of the world. The Muslim Student Association actively participated in raising money for causes that meant a lot to them. In the past, they even held a bake sale and all the proceeds went to help victims of ISIS attacks.

Many religious organizations on campus, such as InterVarsity, functioned as a simple gathering place for students of the same faith to deepen their understanding and worship together.

"InterVarsity provides me with a community of people who are pursuing the same God that I am and to be able to do that alongside fellow JMU students allows me to grow in my faith," said sophomore writing, rhetoric and technical communication Giuliana Macaluso.

InterVarsity provided programs to students of the Christian faith that included a large-group worship every Friday night, as well as smaller groups that interpreted and learned about the Bible together.

For some, like senior communication studies and sociology double major Alyssa Wolf, president of the Chabad Jewish Student Group, religion held much deeper roots than traditions and ceremonies.

"The unique thing about our organization is that Rabbi Mordy, who runs the program, lives in a house right off campus and he provides a sort of home away from home for us while we are here at JMU," Wolf said.

Chabad Jewish Student Group was an organization that strove to give Jewish students a place to meet. They held gatherings that helped the students feel at home as a Jewish JMU student, while also deepening their faith.

Religious organizations on JMU’s campus offered a deeper understanding of faith, as well as a second home for students.
THROUGH YOUR LENS

THE BLUESONE'S STUDENT-SUBMITTED PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Shadows | Breana Quintero
Autumn Reflection | Jillian Wright
"Finish what we started," was the motto for the 25th anniversary season of JMU's women's soccer team. After losing on home turf during the final round of the Colonial Athletic Association tournament in the 2013 season, the team, headed by coach Dave Lombardo, was in it to win it this year.

"Every year, I try not to drag in the year before," said Lombardo. "We try to look at it fresh and new. We had a 15-win season last year that we're proud of, but we lost the wrong game at the wrong time."

Since the program's inception in 1990, the school and the athletics program has doubled in size, as has the number of Division I schools. During the 2014 season, the team was dedicated to getting themselves back into the CAA tournament, the precursor to the National Colonial Athletic Association tournament. Lombardo said this year's team was dedicated to having a winning season.

"For this team, you want kids who are all in. You need to be committed because there's going to be a lot of things that people will be asking you to do, and if you aren't passionate about being a team member and the process of winning, then you can go play on the club team," said Lombardo. "The team also had a strong bond that helped them on and off the field.

"My teammates are people who are going to be a part of my life forever," said senior health sciences major Kelly Abt. "Not only do I spend most of my time with these girls, but we share passion for the same sport, we are there for each other when we are going through the hardest workouts of our lives. We go through the highs and lows of winning and losing, and most importantly, we harmonize singing a cappella together on bus rides."

The ultimate goal of practices, however, was to win games and finish what they started.

"Our motto is a daily reminder," said Lombardo. "The team talks about what they want to do at practice that day and what their focus will be on, there's a concentration of keeping this in their mind. We have the chance to host the tournament, lots of benchmarks to meet, we want to qualify for CAA and they only take 6/10 teams. If you finish first you can get the chance to host. We lost on our home soil, which is something that drives us to take it back again."

Nevertheless, these girls knew there was no 'I' in "team."

"If I had to describe my team in one word, it would be 'unified,'" said junior biology major Kelly Kerrigan. "We band together and fight for each other during every practice and game and we support each other in all other aspects of our lives."

WORDS Julie Hirschhorn
PHOTO JMU Athletic Communications
DESIGN Katharine Allis
Junior midfielder Kelly Kerrigan is a biology major. Throughout her career, she played in 39 career games along with three goals with four assists for ten career points.

Senior defender Kelly Abt is a health sciences major. Throughout her career, she has played in 36 games and was awarded the JMU Athletic Director Scholar-Athlete in 2011.

Front Row (seated) (left to right): Alyssa Zurlo, Stephanie Hamilton, Kelly Abt, Lauren Wilson, team tri-captain Amalya Clayton, Becky Sparka, Eme Brady, Olivia Tomoff, Megan Parrier, Sam Lester, Ellen Seckler, Haley Miller. Middle Row (kneeling) (left to right): Kane Menace, Carley Jenkins, team tri-captain Kelly Germain, Eilis Davison, Isabel Chang, Elissa Hell, Katie Hyland, Kelly Kerrigan, Sam Russell, Shannon Rizzo, Rachel Hoy, Madyson Brown, Lauren Budzinski, team tri-captain Theresa Nogas. Back Row (standing) (left to right): Athletic Trainer Lisa Friesen, Manager Nat Tucker, Assistant Coach Teri Mackowski, Assistant Coach Rachel Chapman, Head Coach David Lombardo, Marlee Styachshin, Kate Courter, Eilis Farnsi, Assistant Coach Scott Gensher, Danielle Corey, Dana O'Keeffe, Athletic Training Student Maggie Smith, Athletic Training Student Nate D'Aveno.
here’s the KICKER

MEN’S SOCCER SAYS GOODBYE TO RETIRING COACH

Coach Thomas Martin spent 29 years with JMU’s men’s soccer program and the 2014 season was his last at the helm.

During his tenure, Martin received the National Coach of the Year Award 16 times, led his teams to the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament nine times and received four Colonial Athletic Association conference championship titles.

Coach Martin is also fifth in most all-time wins among Division I coaches and until his retirement, he held the title for most wins among all of the active Division I coaches in the nation.

In his last season, Coach Martin reflected on the years he spent at JMU.

"Personally, I’ll miss the practices, the locker room and the camaraderie with the staff and the players because the best two hours is spent at practice," Martin said.

After coaching for so long, Coach Martin explained how sometimes people didn’t always believe in his players.

"There’s been a couple of kids that we recruited that a lot of people told us that they wouldn’t make it here at JMU, academically or athletically, and they made it," Martin said. "Those are the ones that really make me proud and know that we’re doing the right things and doing it the right way."

Coach Martin explained how listening to the players and compromising with them was key to success.

"We practice in the morning now at 8 a.m., which was a drastic change from late in the afternoon, which opens up their availability for class scheduling," Martin said.

Coach Martin used the sport to help get players motivated and excited about life after time at JMU.

"My philosophy as a coach and the philosophy of this program is that the team is first, nobody’s above them," Martin said. "They make mistakes just like everyone else, but we use soccer as a vehicle to help them get to where they want to be years from now."

According to Coach Martin, coaching involved a lot flexibility and hard work.

"You have to be a sponge and be constantly learning. This game is evolving all the time. Not just technically, but you have to learn how to manage people, manage situations and to pick and choose your battles," Martin said.

He also described coaching as anything but a "normal job." It involved nights, weekends and most holidays.

Coach Martin’s career at JMU had come to an end, but his legacy would continue to be in the men’s soccer program for many years to come.

WORDS Courtney Ambrose
PHOTO Courtesy of JMU Athletic Communications
DESIGN Briarne Leach
Junior goalkeeper Kyle Morton catches the ball and returns it to the midfield. The midfielders wait for his kick.
The JMU Women’s Swim and Dive Team underwent some crucial changes during the offseason to compete at a higher level during the 2014 season.

Coach Dane Pederson took over the head coaching position and Coach Aaron Burkart began as the strength and conditioning coach for the team. Pederson formerly served as the team’s assistant head coach while Burkart was in his first year with the university’s athletic department.

“Coach Pederson knows us very well which will help him to better lead our team,” said senior swimmer Sin Hye Won.

Won competed in both the 100 and 200 breaststroke as well as the 200 intermediate medley event.

“We have become so much closer and bonded more this year than we have in the past and hopefully that will bring us more success when we compete,” said Won.

As a senior swimmer, Won explained how she would miss the thrill of competing for JMU and being around encouraging people.

“I love the excitement I feel after every race and cheering on my teammates,” said Won. “I will miss the coaches laughing with us and listening to our worries when we needed someone to talk to.”

Won’s favorite moment from the 2013 season was during the Georgia Tech Invitational.

“It was the highlight for me because we all had so much fun as team stretching together, cheering each other on and spending time together,” said Won. “We all swam really well and driving all the way down there, over eight hours away, and spending a few days there was really fun.”

Won hoped to have a successful final year of swimming.

“I am hoping that I will stay healthy for the entire season since this is my last year competing and I want to finish strong,” said Won.

Won’s senior goal was to finish her final season on top, while freshman swimmer Quinn MacMillan’s goal was about looking forward to the next four years of swimming. MacMillan competed in the 100 and 200 freestyle events.

“The practices are definitely a lot harder than I’m used to, but our coaches are awesome and they push us and help us through everything,” said MacMillan.

One of MacMillan’s goals for the season was to drop her race times.

“I’m looking forward to seeing where hard work will take me,” said MacMillan, “As far as the team goals go I think everyone is expecting to put in a lot of work, and see great results this season.”

There were several differences between swimming in high school and college for MacMillan.

“In college there is more of a team aspect to the sport, which I love,” said MacMillan. “It’s also a lot more practicing, we have two a day practices four days a week, which I’m not used to!”

MacMillan said that she was excited for the 2014 season and was looking forward to her first season swimming for the Dukes.
Kimberly Helfrich, a 2014 graduate, executes a difficult dive. This dive required a great amount of flexibility.

Senior Sin Hye Won competes in breaststroke. Throughout her career, Won has broken school records.

Sophomore diver Taryn McLaughlin executes a back dive. During the previous season, McLaughlin was awarded CAA Diver of the Year, CAA Rookie Diver of the Year and CAA Championships Most Outstanding Diver.
Three squad members fly the JMU flag. The rest of the squad cheers.
Still, attitude and a record to back up the talk; it was almost impossible to describe JMU’s cheerleading squad as anything but perfect. After winning the 2012 National Cheerleaders Association National Championship at the coed intermediate level, the Dukes still sought improvement.

"Nationals is the main thing we look forward to," senior marketing major Haley Svadeba said. This excitement for the national competition was what kept the Dukes performing to the best of their abilities. Following their championship victory, the taste of gold pushed them forward.

"We jumped up a division last year and did really well," cheerleading coach Kelly Moore said. With such a long list of accomplishments, the Dukes could have easily sat back and enjoyed their past successes. However, complacency was never a word to be attributed to this team.

At every opportunity, the Dukes worked to make themselves a better team. At an overnight camp put on by the NCA, the Dukes received a Gold Paid Bid to the NCA Nationals. Even with members of the Nationals-winning squad graduating, the younger members rose to the challenge with the assistance of the veterans.

"It’s good to help them learn from the mistakes that we’ve made," senior business major Ashanti Anderson said. "At the end of the day, we’re all there for each other."

The Dukes operated at full potential at every given opportunity. Backed by the wisdom of the veterans, the younger members were able give the team a boost.

"I look at them and remember when I was in their position," Svadeba said. "I want to pass down what I know."

Over the course of the basketball season, the Dukes cheerleading squad had the chance to test their abilities.

"I’m excited that there are more home basketball games," Moore said.

The Dukes cheerleading squad always prided itself on being more than just a team. They looked to each other as family and grew together.

"My favorite thing is when an alumni will come back and say, ‘You helped shape me into who I am today,’” Moore said.

The Dukes spent their time training and preparing to give their best effort to each sports event and competition. This dedication resulted in a strong squad that only aimed to get stronger.

"The future looks really good," Anderson said. "We have a lot of talent."

The Dukes cheerleading was never subject to the thought that they were just a group of pretty faces. They accepted the team as serious athletes and purveyors of JMU spirit.

"I love the support we get from the school," Anderson said. "They treat us like every other athletic team. They want us involved."

This respect is something that has been earned through hard work. The cheerleading team proved they were the 2012 National Champions, why they earned the Gold Paid Bid to the 2015 Nationals and why they were among the elite college cheerleading teams. Their coach had three descriptors.

"Family, passion and success," Moore said. From day one, the Dukes cheerleading squad chased perfection. Their dedication kept them moving, one stunt closer to greatness.

WORDS: Gregory Wilson
PHOTO: Courtesy of JMU Athletic Communications
DESIGN: Alexis Painter
Coach Lauren Steinbrecchel gives direction to her players. Steinbrecchel began coaching at JMU in 2010.

The women's volleyball team huddles before their next match. The team is preparing for action in each game.

Elizabeth Bronces cheers as the team gains a point. The previous year, Bronces was a starter in all 28 matches.
DIG DEEP

JMU WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL WORKS TOWARD SUCCESS

The JMU Women's Volleyball team was a unit dedicated to improvement and becoming the perfect team. "I think that consistency has always been an issue of ours," said senior marketing major Elizabeth Briones, a middle blocker for the team. "It's hard to be disciplined and focused for every single play of every point of every match."

Despite a few bumps in the road, the Dukes remained optimistic and worked to build a cohesive team. Relentless training paired with a tough schedule kept the players working to give their all in every match. "We constantly reevaluate after losses to see what we can do better," Coach Lauren Steinbrecher said. "We always find details that we can improve in our game to put us in a better position to win in the future."

This season, the Dukes boasted a squad that featured both veterans and newcomers. The younger players worked for their spots, looking to become integral members of the team, while the veterans worked hard to remain at the top. "We have some great young talent on the team," Briones said. "They are all such a great addition to the team and they're going to be great players in the future."

The balance of veteran players alongside future stars made the Dukes a fearsome force. The freshmen adjusted well as a result of the welcoming team environment.

"Our team is like a family," Steinbrecher said. "And our freshmen have done a great job."

The Dukes kept their heads high, always looking toward the future. Even in the face of defeat, the players looked forward, determined to go as far as they could. The Colonial Athletic Association tournament remained firmly planted in sight of the Dukes. Through hard work and dedication, the end goal was always within reach. "I think we will finish out the year strong," Briones said. "Hopefully with a win at the CAA tournament."

The women's volleyball team was also dedicated to building bonds both on and off the court, creating an unforgettable team experience. "Our team is like a family," Steinbrecher said. "And our freshmen have done a great job."

As for the future, these dedicated ladies were ready. "For future seasons, there's no doubt in my mind that the Dukes will have a CAA conference win under their belt," Briones said. "They've got the talent to make it happen."

WORDS Gregory Wilson
PHOTO Courtesy of JMU Athletic Communications
DESIGN Brianne Leach
FACE-OFF TO FINISH

JMU WOMEN'S LACROSSE SQUARE UP ON THE FIELD
JMU's women's lacrosse team had always been a collection of fighters. Last season, they fought their way to the finals of the Colonial Athletic Association Championship. Despite losing to Towson in overtime by only one goal, the team remained focused on rebuilding, determined to become champions.

"I'm excited to see this program make changes in its process and mentality," Head Coach Shelley Klaes-Bawcombe said. "I'm really excited for the leadership this year."

The team's three captains worked to build a unit, dedicated entirely to dominating the competition.

"The mentality we had was, 'train like a champion everyday,'" said attacking captain Stephanie Finley. The senior hospitality management major was anything but hospitable on the field; ferocity was a key trait of the team.

The athletes trained hard and played harder, all to earn the right to call themselves champions. The seniors remained optimistic, despite the fact that this would be their final season representing the Dukes.

"It's obviously bittersweet, but it's exciting," said midfield captain Alison Curwin. "We're not really focused on the last game, we're focused on today."

The senior math major was an essential piece of the machine that drove JMU Women's Lacrosse forward.

The team trained to become an impenetrable fortress on the field. In addition to building attacking prowess, the defensive end of the field worked to improve.

"Shutting everyone down is an amazing feeling," said senior defensive captain and sports and recreation management Alexis Cross. The veterans also saw the potential in the young players. The captains worked with the younger members to better integrate them with the philosophy of the team. This integration created a cohesive squad on the field.

"Our attack's a bit younger," Finley said. "Our speed on attack is going to be incredible."

Keeping with the champion mentality, the team worked as if every upcoming game was a tournament final. They trained with an unmatched intensity, regardless of the weather. Every practice was a step toward glory, a step they had to take to solidify their status among the other teams within their conference.

"Leaving a legacy was the main thing," Cross said.

Even in training, the team remained energetic and worked to keep things fun. They recognized the game should be played for the love of the sport and the potential achievements.

"We focused on enjoying the process while we're working hard," Finley said.

JMU's Women's Lacrosse team played with a near-animalistic intensity, determined to dominate. On and off the field.
AND THE CROWD GOES WILD
THE JMU FOOTBALL TEAM ADAPTS TO NEW CHANGES
After 15 years under head coach Mickey Matthews, the JMU football program endured an immense amount of change. JMU hired an entirely new coaching staff, plus a new head coach of strength and conditioning.

Head Coach Everett Withers came to JMU after coaching 26 years, including 19 seasons in Division I collegiate programs and six seasons in the National Football League. Before Withers came to Harrisonburg to lead the Dukes, he spent the previous two years at The Ohio State University coaching the Buckeyes, including several of the Dukes' new position coaches.

Specifically, the assistant head, tight ends coach and recruiting coordinator, John Bowers. Coach Bowers returned to the Burg after he graduated with both undergraduate ('79) and graduate ('80) education degrees, and lettered in both football and baseball during his tenure. Coach Bowers explained how the changes in the program positively affected the players.

"We have really streamlined everything that we do," Bowers said. "The players have done a really nice job of embracing the part of getting ready to play a season and that's now showing up, especially in our young players, and there are a number of them. They're playing better and better."

After Bowers worked on defense for 34 years, he switched over to offense to work with the tight ends.

"Now that I'm on offense, it is enlightening to be on the other side of the ball," said Bowers. "The defensive stuff that I've had in the past has really helped."

Bowers touched on the importance of teaching players.

"You don't take anything for granted; you have to find different methods," Bowers said. "When a football player makes a mistake in a game, it's my fault. I should've trained him to not make that mistake."

Bowers' first season with the Dukes, he set goals to improve everyday.

"Don't worry about the wins and the losses. Don't worry about who you're playing. It all comes down to getting your guys to play hard and play well and excited to play on Saturday," Bowers said.

During Bowers' first season with the Dukes, he set goals to improve everyday.

"Don't worry about the wins and the losses. Don't worry about who you're playing. It all comes down to getting your guys to play hard and play well and excited to play on Saturday," Bowers said.

Sport and recreation management major and redshirt senior tailback Jauan Latney said the energy is much different than in his past years spent playing with the Dukes.

"The new coaching staff has really brought everyone together as a family and we're all jelling more, rather than everyone being in separate cliques," Latney said.

Latney also commented on the changes that were made regarding the on-field aspect of the game.

According to Latney, the coaches made everyone better. He explained how the coaches trained all players to play positions not just the starters.

"There's a lot more emphasis on grades and making academics a key point," Latney said. "Study halls are stricter and there are class checks."

Latney stated how involved this new coaching staff was and how much they were improving the program.

"They bring a lot more energy," Latney said. "They want to know us on and off the field, more than just football."
Junior midfielder Adrienne le Vatte whacks the ball down the field. The forward player received the ball to continue down the field.

Junior Taylor West juggles the ball away from her opponent. Her teammate blocks her after opening down.
With eight freshmen joining the team and a new coaching staff leading the way, the JMU women's field hockey team faced a series of changes in the fall 2014 season.

In the spring of 2013, a new coaching staff headed by Christy Morgan started working with the Dukes to prepare for the fall season. Morgan coached JMU's 1994 National Collegiate Athletic Association Championship team and has since coached at Davidson College and Wake Forest University.

Her return has sparked "a positive change for our program," said junior redshirt and health sciences major Taylor West.

As a midfielder, West scored 13 goals this past season and was nominated for both the All-Colonial Athletic Association and All-State second teams. Of these recognitions, West felt honored and remarked that her success would not have been possible without the hard work and support of her teammates.

"Growth was the goal of the year and we really did grow, as a team and individually," said junior midfielder and kinesiology major Marie-Louise Stijntjes.

Stijntjes was the leading scorer for the Dukes this season with 14 goals. Additionally, she was chosen to the All-CAA and All-State first teams.

Despite a tough conference and undergoing tremendous change, the Dukes rose to the occasion and finished their season with a winning record of 12-8.

The Dukes, ranked fourth in their conference, and proved they were competitive when they beat top-seeded Northeastern 3-0 in the semifinals of the CAA tournament.

This victory was even more impressive considering the Dukes had lost to Northeastern University just a week before. The Dukes were resilient and performed their best despite the circumstances.

"Every piece of the puzzle connected that game," West said.

The team fought hard in the finals against University of Delaware, but ultimately lost 2-1.

"There's a little bitterness about making it to the championship and not finishing there," West said. "Hopefully that motivates us to work harder."

Although the field hockey team made great strides this season, the fearsome force knew they had to strengthen their skills to succeed in the future.
2014 graduate Jacqueline Palmucci shows her underhand skills as she returns a volley. Her opponent awaited the return.

COURT ADVANTAGE

JMU WOMEN’S TENNIS ACES AGAINST OPPONENTS
Determination was the mark of a champion and the JMU women’s tennis team exemplified this essential trait. On and off the court, the group worked hard to be the best they could be and their efforts proved to be worth it.

“As a team, we did really well,” player Dylan Owens said. The undeclared freshman witnessed change in the team firsthand. “We improved tremendously as the season went on.”

In addition to individual improvement, the team worked to improve chemistry among the players in anticipation of dual competition. Despite a wide variety of people, building chemistry was not difficult.

“We all have very different, unique personalities,” Owens said. “But we still love each other and have a great time when we’re all together.”

Unity combined with their individual talent resulted in a team dedicated to competing to the best of their ability during every match. This dedication manifested itself as singles and doubles titles at the 2014 Bill & Sandra Moore Invitational.

Dedication wasn’t the only mark of a champion. The other trait shared by all champions was ambition. Even after claiming multiple titles, the team remained focused on the matches to come, not content to rest on past accomplishments.

“I’m really looking forward to traveling and playing dual matches this season,” Owens said. “It’s going to be really competitive and exciting.”

The athletes trained with the intention of domination. They worked to defend their elite status. For their hard work, they were rewarded with victory. The Dukes earned a reputation for being a difficult team to beat.

“I love figuring my opponent out,” Owens said. “And feeling a great sense of accomplishment at the end of the day.”

A team determined to win will find a way to win. The Dukes were determined, and worked to win consistently. JMU Women’s Tennis was propelled by ambition, flying through the competition much like a tennis ball soaring over the net for a game-winning ace.
The men's tennis team at JMU was new and improving. In 2014, the team had a brand-new dynamic: with many of the team members graduated from the year before, the team consisted of six freshmen and two sophomores.

"The guys are great kids. I think they really learned a lot and developed throughout the season," said Head Coach Steve Secord. "It was good to see them embrace different concepts and practice and work hard and improve throughout the season."

Playing on a college sports team was difficult for most students, but the men on the tennis team had some extra challenges. As an individual sport, players had to work on their own skills without worrying about what their teammates were doing on the same court, while still realizing that they won as a team.

"Ultimately, they have to do their own thing individually," Secord said.

According to Secord, one of the most rewarding moments of the season was winning the first round of the conference against Drexel. The team had just won against the Drexel Dragons a few weeks before, although it had been a tight match with a score of 4-3.

In the conference, the Dukes defeated the Dragons 4-0.

"I think we were able to work on some things and improve. Everybody played the same person and did better than they had in just a two-week time frame," Secord said. "That kind of stuck out."

For the 2015 season, Secord had a few ideas on how to keep improving and win the conference championship. In addition to changing the scoring format, Secord wanted to focus on coaching a positive tone for all of his players.

"It's a tough sport," Secord said. "It's frustrating at times. It's easy to get negative and down on yourself."

Men's tennis may not have had any seniors, but the players were rising up in the ranks to meet their opponents head-on.
Maximillian Branth returns the ball with a volley. The men's tennis team practiced at the tennis courts located by The Village.
Changing a lightbulb, brushing your teeth, and break dancing. What do all of these things have in common? Break Dance Club President Abigail Riggeman would say that they are all things anyone could do.

"People from all backgrounds and skill levels come to us, breaking is for everybody," Riggeman said. "It is a great way to express yourself in a way that words never can."

That is not to take away from the incredible athletic and acrobatic feats that some of these breakers can accomplish. At jams, one would not only experience loud music and cheering, they would witness the moves that the break dancers spend hours perfecting.

A jam was when multiple clubs from different schools got together to compete. Breaking, as it was officially called, at a jam was unlike any other event one was likely to see.

The three most common things one would see at a jam were one-versus-one battles, crew battles, which were usually four-versus-four, and then freestyle ciphers, where breakers gathered in a circle and took turns going in on the beat, making up moves as they went.

The club's practices were usually very casual, with members showing up and practicing, be it learning new moves from teammates or trying to perfect that one sequence. Breakers usually either freestyled the moves, or they could plan out a choreography for a few breakers to perform together.

"We are always looking for more members," said Riggeman. "With a lot of clubs or teams people may feel like they don't belong, or that they cannot get over that sense of stage fright to really be themselves. Here, nobody has to worry about that, it is a 100 percent judge-free zone."

So the next time you get an urge to dance like nobody's watching, do it. Who knows, maybe you'll find that breaking is for you and you can find yourself at home among JMU's breakers.
ARCHITECTURE PROVINCIAL OF THE PHILIPPINE
BREAK DANCE CLUB 183
SCORING IN THE ATTACKING ZONE

CLUB ICE HOCKEY DEVOTES THEMSELVES ON AND OFF THE ICE

The team gathers on the ice before the start of the game. The fans waited patiently for the start of the quarter.

The players talk strategy on the ice during warm ups. The other teammates run drills to prepare for the game.

The team cheers after winning the game. The crowd stood and cheered for their success.

The goalie protects the goal from the opposing players' shot. The defenders helped defend the goal with the goalie.
Dedication was a cardinal rule when participating in any competitive sport. The men of JMU Club Ice Hockey proved their commitment to the sport they loved by traveling an hour just to get to practice.

"Since there isn't [an indoor rink] around, we travel to Charlottesville once or twice a week at 11:30 at night to practice," said senior political science and secondary education double major Alexander Parker.

Long travel times meant late nights for the members of club ice hockey, but this brought them closer and created a bond that helped them when it came to game time.

"We're always making fun of each other and joking around, and everyone's always laughing and smiling," said junior biology major Connor Keelan. "What's great about it is we're able to bring the chemistry we have onto the ice and it comes to help us win games."

Different from many other hockey programs, the team was led by Parker, a student head coach instead of a coach from outside JMU.

"We were looking for an adult coach, but we couldn't find anyone interested or qualified, so I stepped up to lead our team," Parker said.

Through this experience, Parker realized that he wanted to remain active in the sport once he graduated and hoped to coach a youth team near the school where he would be teaching.

Club hockey at JMU was different from other club sports in multiple ways, but mainly because there was no varsity team. Many other universities had a varsity team, but no club team.

"I knew I wanted to play club coming in. It wasn't as intense as varsity and it gave a nice balance between hockey, fun and school work," Parker said.

While ice hockey was a lot of hard work, the team members enjoyed the times when they took weekend road trips to away games against other teams.

"My favorite memory from this year was our weekend road trip to Charlotte, North Carolina for a tournament," Parker said.

Many of the other team members enjoyed away games because it gave the men a time to bond and hang out with each other.

JMU Club Ice Hockey gave students the opportunity to continue their craft, while still having enough time to devote to school, something that was highly sought after in a club sport.

WORDS Hannah Adams
PHOTO Courtesy of Jodi Shaw
DESIGN Leah Jacobs
Sophomore guard Jackson Kent keeps his eye on the hoop as he travels down the field. The crowd gazed and cheered for him.

Junior guard Ronald Curry looks before he makes the pass. His teammate guarded the opponent.

Sophomore forward Yohanny Dalembert blocks his opponent against the back board. The crowd chanted for Dalembert's defensive skills.

Junior guard Ronald Curry looks before he makes the pass. His teammate guarded the opponent.
The picture of the 2013 JMU men's basketball team holding their trophy high as they won the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament for the first time in 19 years was still fresh in the minds of the JMU community. Although, the 2014 team only made it to the second round of the tournament, they still achieved a moral victory.

This year, the 2015 Dukes were stronger and more equipped than before to succeed during the regular season. Head Coach Matt Brady and his alliance of athletes had hopes to make it to the "big dance."

"Sure, we could've won a few more games, but what team can't say that," Brady said. "College basketball is a tough game, it does not matter who you are, if you go out on the court and play anything other than your best and you are going to lose."

Coach Brady arrived at JMU in 2008 after he spent eight seasons developing the Division I basketball program at Marist College in New York. Brady built the Marist Basketball program into a top seed team in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

As Brady began coaching the Dukes, it did not take long for him to garner respect from his players. He kept in contact with many of them once they graduated, such as high-flying 2013 graduate A.J. Davis who moved on to play in the NBA Developmental League.

"Coach Brady has been working with us since day one to make us better players and a better team," said junior guard and sports and recreation major Ronald Curry in an email interview. "He pushes us because he's seen what we can bring to the court."

When talking about top-notch college basketball, teams such as the University of Virginia and Ohio State University tend to arise. However, it may not be long before our own JMU Dukes are included in the upper ranks of college basketball. The 2014-2015 season of the Dukes kicked off with a game against the UVA Cavaliers and the Dukes also collided with Ohio State early in the season.

Despite these tough opponents, the Dukes maintained a strong record through clever basketball plays and a competitive nature that reminded many that JMU was not to be underestimated.

"I really like the atmosphere and enthusiasm the fans bring when they come to our games," Brady said. "The pep band is great, the fans are loud and it makes it that much harder for teams to come play on our home court. We are always looking for ways to involve the fans and keep them engaged."

Although the Dukes trip to the NCAA tournament during the 2014 season was short-lived, the 2015 team strived to improve their techniques and strength on the court.

"We are a young team, and everybody is committed," Brady said. "We are going to continue to perform and improve, and we will become better as a unit."
Junior guard Precious Hall dribbles down the court pasting her opponent. Hall passed to her teammate to make the shot.

Redshirt senior Lauren Clarke goes for a jump shot. Clarke aims for the three-pointer shot.

Junior guard Ashley Makey goes off her left hand try to hit the basket. Makey is one to watch in the future on the court.
BANK SHOT VICTORY

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL DRIBBLES TOWARD A SUCCESSFUL RECORD

Anyone who ever said the phrase "girls can’t play basketball" obviously didn’t go to JMU. The tough and tough Dukes, coming off of a Colonial Athletic Association tournament win and an overall season record of 29-6, left a deep impression on JMU fans.

Coach Kenny Brooks headed into his thirteenth season with an impressive coaching record and a team bonded by a desire to win.

Brooks took over as head coach of the JMU women’s basketball program in March 2003 after serving briefly as interim head coach. The 2014-2015 season concluded his 13th season at the helm. Under the leadership of the JMU alumnus, the women’s team has made it to the semifinals of the CAA tournament or better every season.

Brooks was not the only one getting recognition. Under his reign, he coached multiple CAA players of the year, including 2008 graduate and Women’s National Basketball Association first round draft pick, Tamera Young. Several other players, such as 2014 graduate, Kirby Brinkholder, continued to play professionally after leaving the JMU women’s basketball program.

"Coach Brooks is a tough cookie," said senior redshirt center and psychology major Lauren Okafar. "He will holler at me during the game if I make a bad play, but will be the first one jumping at a [referee’s] throat when someone fouls me.”

Coach Brooks had a reputation for being tough but fair, and he knew how to push the players to their full potential.

“If he has a soft spot for us all and only wants to get the best out of us. And he will get that best, no matter what it takes,” Okafar said.

The women’s basketball team began their 2014-2015-conference season with a great 7-0 start. The team earned an overall record of an impressive 16-2 by the end of January 2015. As of January 2015, the Dukes had earned at least 24 wins per season for the previous nine seasons, and with only two members of the 2014-2015 squad being seniors, the odds looked favorable for the upcoming seasons.

The bond these players had with each other and their coach, combined with the support of the Duke Dog nation, just might have been the secret to their continued success on the court.

WORDS Paige Lobuts and Matthew Sackett
PHOTO Courtesy of JMU Athletic Communications
DESIGN China Boynes

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL | 189
A horseback rider prepares to make a jump on the course. A good relationship with the horse was an essential element to a rider.
BEHIND THE BRIDLE

JMU EQUESTRIAN CLUB FOCUSES ON MORE THAN JUST THE RIDE OF LIFE

WORDS: Hannah Adams
PHOTO: Hannah Adams
DESIGN: Breana Quintero
Riders walk their horses around the course. Riders practiced frequently throughout the school week.

The rider contemplates her next jump. All riders kept their riding crop firmly in their hands while practicing.

The rider surveys the course. All English riders kept straight posture while riding.
The feel of the horse galloping through the field was a familiar sensation to many JMU students, but for some, their love of horses came with them to college.

The equestrian club at JMU allowed students to meet other horse enthusiasts, including a program set in place that let members take weekly riding lessons, and even compete in shows. Most students chose to ride at Jason Berry Stables located in Verona, Va, the club’s official stable partner.

“My absolute favorite memory of riding was my first lesson at Jason Berry’s,” said junior health sciences major Olivia Robertson. “I remember being so excited and nervous, but happy that I was finally getting back on a horse.”

Robertson rode all her life and was excited to continue when she entered JMU. Robertson, one of two publicity chairs, enjoyed being on the executive board of the club and loved giving tours to prospective new club members.

“One of my favorite things we do is take people looking into joining the club, and either I or Amanda [the other publicity chair] will take them to Jason Berry’s and show them around,” said Robertson.

While Olivia chose only to ride, some girls in the club chose also to show. Showing was an all-day event where a rider and her horse competed in a series of events and placed according to how well he or she performed.

“I love the team aspect that you get from being a part of the show team. Riding is so individual, so it’s nice to having the feeling that your team is behind you,” said fifth year senior Taylor Shearin, the captain of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association chapter at JMU.

While riding and meetings were big parts of the club equestrian’s activities, the ladies were also very involved in the local program, Ride With Pride.

“Ride With Pride is a big part of who we are,” said Shearin. “I love helping others through the thing I love.”

In addition to painting jumps and helping with lessons, the equestrian club volunteered during certain events, such as the judged trail ride.

“Many of the members also went to help as a “walk along,” someone who would walk next to the riders and make sure they were able to sit up properly on the horse.

“Most riders with disabilities could not sit up all the way [on the horse], so we got to help them out,” said senior biology major Clayton Poffenberger, the vice president of the club.

Poffenberger was heavily involved with the program, and loved watching the participants overcome big obstacles.

“If you work [with a participant] from beginning to end, you get to see this incredible transformation,” said Poffenberger. “They really make huge strides in overcoming whatever they came [to Ride With Pride] for.”

Therapeutic techniques used included further developing motor skills by playing games while on the horse, and learning basic motions with the horse, such as stopping and walking.

From helping other riders with disabilities, to furthering their own fitness and coordination, the members of JMU’s equestrian club were able to bring their love of horses to campus.
Playing the board game Battleship and destroying your opponent was a fun pastime, especially getting to yell, "You sunk my battleship!" When they came to JMU, students took the game to a whole new level.

The assistant director of intramural sports and special events, Aaron Combs, brought the game to JMU in 2010. Combs attended Western Illinois University, where he first saw this event.

"He felt that it would be a great event to pilot at JMU, and for the past five years, it has been a great success," said Shannon Tumelty, a graduate assistant for the intramural sports and special events office.

For three hours on February 7, 2015, one of the biggest UREC events took place. Even though eight canoes were competing at a time, 40 teams total were participating for the coveted Battleship trophy. The main objective of the sport was to sink every other ship in the water while protecting your ship with shields, usually made from umbrellas.

"I expected it to be less intense, but it was still fun. I was surprised at how many shields people made because I didn't realize it was so serious," said graduate student Carson Rader-Bell in an email interview. Rader-Bell, who was studying student affairs, was part of a team of graduate students who called themselves the "Battling Grads."

Other team names included the USS Summit, Black Pearl, Bouys in the Hood, Row vs. Wade, and Boatwiser. Lots of creativity went into being on a team during the event.

"We normally have a costume competition along with the event and teams love that aspect," Tumelty said. "Having a costume competition inspires creativity in the participants and is a helpful way to identify each team."

The game began with all of the teams participating in the preliminary heat. The top four teams advanced to the next division, called the Admirals Cup, while the other teams competed in the Recruits Cup. Another round took place to name winners for each division. The overall winning team received intramural championship t-shirts and took home a trophy, which proudly displayed their name.

Each player was able to use a "bucket" or "shield" for sinking and protecting their ship. "Buckets" were anything from pitchers, pots, buckets, bowls or plastic storage bins. "Shields" were anything from the lids of plastic storage bins, umbrellas or circular sleds.

"Participants get very into battleship and are very innovative with their "bucket" and "shield" ideas," Tumelty said.

UREC's Battleship competition brought back memories from childhood and gave the students a new way to relive the younger years.
Students participate in UREC's Club Battleship Tournament. Over 40 teams competed in the event.
JMU WOMEN’S GOLF TEAM FINDS COMMON GROUND

WORDS Courtney Ambrose
PHOTO Courtesy of JMU Athletic Communications
DESIGN Breana Quintero

JMU woman’s golf had a diverse team that consisted of members from all parts of the world. Despite the different backgrounds, each player shared a passion for the game of golf.

Senior psychology major Maria Andrea Legaspi first moved to America from Quezon City, Philippines, when she began her freshman year at JMU. She had visited many times prior to see golf tournaments. “When I started playing competitive golf at the age of nine, I would come in June and leave in late August,” Legaspi said.

Legaspi said she had no idea what James Madison University was when she received a recruiting letter, but stayed in touch with the coaching staff. “I felt really at home when I came here for my unofficial and my official visits,” said Legaspi. “I envisioned myself walking around the campus and I loved the people.” Although Legaspi was well-traveled, she said she received a unique feeling when she was going to play against other schools. “I think the beauty of our game is we play the same sport, same game, same rules, but the scenery changes a lot,” Legaspi said. “So playing in Florida is very different than playing in Kentucky, but it’s the same in the way that you are always guaranteed a beautiful scenery.”

Legaspi explained how coming to JMU was one of the best decisions she had ever made. “I’ve grown so much as a person and changed for the better,” Legaspi said. “The words amazing and wonderful are such an understatement. Overwhelmingly great, I guess.” The biggest accomplishment for Legaspi was that she was able to learn about herself through playing collegiate golf. “The future that I’m looking at right now would not have been possible if I hadn’t been a student-athlete at JMU,” Legaspi said.

Senior justice studies major shrbir Brewer came to Harrisonburg from Herndon, Virginia, just a short drive away. Brewer was born into the golf world and grew up watching her sister play. At the age of ten, she began golfing competitively. “I chose JMU to continue my golfing career because it was far away from home, but close enough and the coach seemed pretty passionate about the game of golf,” Brewer said. “Aside from athletics, it’s a beautiful campus and everyone here is extremely nice and I couldn’t ask for anything better.”

Playing on different types of courses was Brewer’s favorite part about traveling to play the game. “Kiawah is definitely my favorite course to compete at because I love the Charleston area and hopefully that’ll be my future home,” Brewer said. Brewer said the key to her golf game was staying focused and keeping her swing consistent. “As long as my swing is good, it makes my mental game a little bit easier on me,” Brewer said.

Brewer explained how winning the Colonial Athletic Association tournament last year and shooting three under par for all three rounds was her biggest accomplishment while at JMU. As a student athlete, Brewer realized there were some perks. “Coming into college with a group of people who love the same thing you do, it’s a lot easier to connect,” Brewer said.

Post-graduation, Brewer planned to head to a qualifying school in hopes of reaching the Ladies Professional Golf Association one day. Whether the players were from United States or from the other side of the world, their love for golf connected them.
Senior Shabril Brewer chips the ball out of the sand bunker. Both teams watched her quietly as she hit the ball.
JMU MEN’S GOLF TEAM CLEAR THE FAIRWAY

Life would be nothing but never-ending struggle and conflict if good results and winning were everything. This rule applied to the game of golf. The process to become a skillful golfer was to practice, play and learn about the game. The JMU men’s golf team learned and lived by these rules.

During their spring season, this band of athletes advanced their skills on and off the green and was able to win against tournaments, such as the Old Dominion University-sponsored tournament in North Carolina. JMU Men’s Golf alumnus Coach Jeff Forbes was proud of this moment.

“When the guys won the Old Dominion tournament in the fall semester, this was a special moment for me,” Coach Forbes said. “Because when I had played for JMU, we never came close to winning against ODU.”

In October, ODU hosted a tournament at Kilmarlic Golf Course in Powells Point, North Carolina. The Madison men collected the team title while winning against golf teams such as University of Maryland, Marshall University, George Mason University and Campbell University.

JMU entered the final round with a three-shot advantage over Hartford College and five-shot advantage over George Mason. The Dukes were the only team under par by the start of the final round and finished with 6-over par, claiming the title.

“When the team wins as an event, it’s very special,” Forbes said. “It doesn’t happen all the time like in other sports where you play one-on-one. When you win one of those tournaments, it’s special. We can play up to 35 teams.”

Sophomore finance major Ryan Cole tied for runner-up at the tournament. His second-place award made this win his best finish of his college career.

As the team landed the great victory at the ODU tournament, it made the men strive for success in all parts of the game. The Dukes continued to practice 18 hours of week along with two hours of conditioning. Their goals were to work on their own, with each other and continually develop good habits as team members and friends.

“I would say this fall has been one of the strongest team’s I’ve had in the longest time,” Forbes said. “I keep reflecting on the ODU tournament. I’ll remember that moment for a long time.”

By the JMU Men’s Golf record, the James Madison men practiced all parts of the game, but never let winning consume them. They knew they could be successful on the green if they were to keep practicing and learning the game of golf.
Sophomore Patrick Pettapung finds his line for a solid putt on the green. The crowd waited quietly for the putt.

Pettapung breaks his put towards the hole. Pettapung had three top-11 and eight top-30 collegiate finishes.
INTRAMURAL FLAG FOOTBALL KEEPS DUKES ON THEIR TOES

When college gets stressful, many students would unwind by watching Netflix or getting together with friends. But for some Dukes, running around on a field, catching passes and getting flags pulled was the best way to spend their free time.

Offered every fall semester, flag football consisted of teams of seven or eight players that faced off each week in a game very similar to tackle football.

"Instead of tackling the opposing players to end a play, intramural players must remove the other person's flag belt," said Shannon Tumelty, a graduate assistant for Intramural Sports and Special Events, in an email interview.

The teams would then try to get the ball into the end zone, and "try" for additional points. During the "try," the teams were awarded points based on how far their line of scrimmage was from the end zone.

Flag football was one of the most popular intramural sports University Recreation Center offered. Last fall semester, the sport recruited 97 different teams to compete for the championship title.

"We have very dedicated participants who usually start playing their freshman year and continue all the way up to their senior year," Tumelty said.

Intramurals at JMU gave students a chance to spend time with their friends, while they exercised and competed against their peers.

"Intramural Sports directly affects [supporting the university's mission statement] by teaching students about responsibility, sportsmanship, leadership, communication skills and good teamwork," Tumelty said.

Teamwork was emphasized in many sports, but it was especially important in flag football.

"I really believe that Flag Football players need to trust each of their teammates so that they know where to run on each down," Tumelty said. "She also said that teamwork was important in winning, as most of the successful teams worked very well together.

Like other intramural sports, such as basketball and soccer, flag football was highly competitive. While sports injuries were common from intense gameplay, the rough nature of the game also made it enjoyable for the spectators that gathered to watch.

"JMU has very talented athletic students who make flag football one of our most enjoyable intramural sports to play and watch," Tumelty said.

Intramurals were designed to give students an outlet to unload the stress of school and homework, and intramural flag football did just that.

WORDS Hannah Adams
PHOTO Kendal Brown
DESIGN Brianne Leach
 Intramural Flag Football

As the player heads for the end zone, the opposing player attempts to steal his flag. Many teams had friends come support them during games.
Cross-country races took place on open courses in a combination of grass, hills, mud or water. The varying distances were meant to test the strength of the runners. These obstacles challenged the JMU Women's Cross Country team, but never exhausted them. Physically they may have been exhausted, but mentally, this team commanded the courses.

From meet to meet, during the fall season, the cross country team exceeded expectations from their coach and themselves. Despite any academic or student-life obstacles, the women put their hesitations and worries aside and did what they knew best: running the distance.

"The resilient attitude of this team will always stay with me," Coach Dave Rinker said. "They carried great attitudes throughout the season."

On October 18, the JMU varsity team placed 11th at the 2014 Indiana State Pre-National Invitational at the LaVern Gibson Championship Cross Country Course. While they competed, the top two runners, junior Communication Sciences and Disorders major Kathleen Stewart and sophomore Kinesiology major Tessa Mundell recorded running times that ranked in the program's top 20 all-time on the 6,000-meter course.

By November 1, Stewart finished third and Mundell finished ninth at the Colonial Athletic Association Championships, which lead the team to finish in third-place. At one of their last meets of the season, the Dukes placed 11th at the National Collegiate Athletic Association Southeast Regional Championships, which was paced by Stewart's 28th-place performance.

If this team were described in one word, this course record would define them as determined. Their great strides this season showed how dedicated the team was to shine as individuals, team, and friends.

"It's the little things that bond the team together," Rinker said. "Whether it's dinner or movies or eating ice cream, bonding the freshman with the upperclassman makes the biggest impact on the team. It makes them focused and disciplined. I'm lucky enough to have a great group of girls."

This cross country crew of women pushed each other to be the best beyond practices. More self-disciplined than the average athletes, these girls used their leisure time to run with each other and push for success.

"[Our expectations are] very high within this program," Rinker said. "We don't always reach the goal the goals we set, but if you work as hard as you can, and don't achieve, then you walk away and prepare for the next season."
Team member practices on the uneven bar. The club held practice during the school week.

The club poses for a team picture. During each season the gymnastics club held an invitational at JMU.
There has always been something alluring about flight. JMU's Club Gymnastics Team has steadily been getting closer to their dreams and farther from the ground. This was a group of people that worked not only to elevate themselves, but each other.

"It's the least intimidating room you'll be in at JMU," said senior anthropology major Kelly Meredith. "It's so much like a family."

The club gymnastics team welcomed those passionate about the craft. They wanted people who saw it as not only a sport, but also a lifelong passion.

"I've done this sport since I was two," said junior math major Brittany French.

The team practiced on a regular basis. These training sessions served as a social gathering as well as an opportunity to improve their abilities. Their hard work did not go unnoticed, as the team won a national title in 2014.

"It was the perfect experience," said senior kinesiology major Tori Severin.

The team served as much more than an athletic group training together. The personal connections created were unforgettable.

"I'm going to miss knowing I have people to go to when I need something," Meredith said. "They're all going to be there for me, no matter what."

With their triumph at the national level, the team also saw their profile on campus elevated. As their group gained recognition, their morale as a team skyrocketed.

"It's fun to have it become a little more well-known," French said. "It lifts everyone's spirits."

With some members graduating in May, the team looked to the younger members to continue the traditions of club gymnastics. The veterans recognized the talent of the younger members.

"We have a very bright future," Severin said. "All of the new members have a lot of talent."

JMU's Club Gymnastics Team was a shining representative of the sport, exemplifying the fact that was not just a sport, but also a physical art. They were artists of the highest caliber, dedicated to coming as close to perfection as possible. They worked to achieve that human dream of freedom through flight.

"I love feeling like I'm flying," Meredith said. The team looked to the future, and trusted the younger members of the team to lead the team to new frontiers, new heights and uncharted territory. As the vaults got higher and the floor routines got more complex, the team remained dedicated, ready to take on world and look good doing it.
FEAR THE FRISBEE
WOMEN'S ULTIMATE FRISBEE CLUB THROWS ALL CAUTION TO THE WIND IN COMPETITION

WORDS Mary Pitts
PHOTO Veronica Garcia
DESIGN Megan Rzepka

Women's Ultimate Frisbee Club was a competitive, adrenaline-filled sport with power, determination and sweat. The team, commonly nicknamed "The Monkeys," always prepared to give it their all. Each practice prepared the women for the five tournaments of the spring semester.

"I joined Ultimate because I was looking for a fun and different club to get involved in," said sophomore Jessica Crowley, a health sciences major. "The girls were extremely friendly and enthusiastic at student organization night, so I decided to give it a try."

The object of ultimate frisbee was to catch the disc in the end zone of the opposing team. The first team to earn a certain number of points won. Players moved the disc down the field through their teammates and the defense needed to catch it in the end zone of the opposing team.

There were seven players for each team on the field and two available positions: handlers and cutters. Handlers usually had better throws, while cutters were faster and could be open further down the field. When a player had the disc they were not allowed to move, yet they could pivot on one foot without taking any steps. They had ten seconds to release the disc before it was considered a turnover to the other team.

Emily Twigg, a senior Spanish and international affairs double major, was a member of the team all four years.

"It was a hot day in Axton, Virginia and we were neck and neck with the Ohio State team nicknamed, 'Fever,'" Twig said in an email interview. "We were tied with 12 points when we started to think that we might actually have a shot at winning the game."

Twig explained how the team was so filled with excitement and anticipation during the game against the Ohio State "Fever" that their hearts were pounding like a sledgehammer. The game came down to a 14-14 tie with one point needed to win.

Olivia Kirk, a senior geographic science major, had the disc in the center of the field and saw an opening to run to the end zone. Kirk put up a long, curvy throw all the way down the field. One of their fastest players, Kathleen MacCall, a senior kinesiology major, chased the soaring frisbee down the field and was able to jump into the air horizontally and catch it in the end zone.

Twig described the play as, "Incredible!"

The women stormed the field, brimming with the energy and intensity that led to their impressive win.
LEAVE IT ON THE COURT

MEN'S CLUB VOLLEYBALL ACES THEIR SEASON

United as a team with a mutual interest in spiking the ball at the other team's faces, JMU Men's Club Volleyball worked as a cohesive crew.

"Everyone's persona fits well into a functional unit," said junior biology major Zachery Pommer. "My favorite part of being on the team is the team dynamic."

The friendly atmosphere did not detract from the sport itself. The Dukes were ruthless on the court, overpowering opposing teams in search of tournament wins. Their ferocity was rewarded with a tournament victory at University of Maryland, College Park.

The team regularly practiced intensely, determined to add to their list of accomplishments. Their practices were a combined effort; players worked to improve their skills and their positions individually, in addition to running court drills and conducting team scrimmages.

"We succeed as a team and fail as a team," Pommer said. "It's all a matter of how well we went to do."

The team mentality strengthened the player relationships on and off the court. The synchronized team served as an inspiration to others interested in the sport. During each school year, the team welcomed new players and mentored them to develop a new squad of determined volleyball players.

"The future is bright for us," Pommer said. "Talent keeps pouring into our team and players are improving weekly. I see us winning more tournaments this season and even more as the years progress."

The team's harmony was supplemented by their tenacity to be a victorious team and ability to stay optimistic. The JMU men's club volleyball team worked on their techniques constantly, while searching and preparing for the next win. Off the court, they were the best of friends. On the court, they were winners, always ready to serve the next opponent.

WORDS Gregory Wilson
PHOTO Veronica Garcia
DESIGN Leah Jacobs
JMU's players prepare to hit the ball to the opposing team. The team played multiple games each season.
Members of the saxophone and mellophone sections get pumped up for the game. Performances were a good bonding experience.

The Marching Royal Dukes perform a quick picture at St. Peter's Square in Vatican City, Rome. They lead the charge as part of the Vatican Blessing of the Toys event.

The drummers maintain their precision as they play and march on the field. Marching bands take place during the fall semester.
The 2014-2015 marching season was an exciting one for the Marching Royal Dukes, complete with football game performances, high school band days and a trip to Rome to perform for the Pope himself.

As the fall marching season ended, the MRDs looked forward to an exciting year-end trip to Italy. On New Year’s Day 2015, they performed selections from their Italian-themed show along with traditional JMU tunes in St. Peter’s Square in Vatican City, just before Pope Francis gave his annual blessing.

“Most unique experience of all was just being a part of something so much bigger than our own organization, university, or country even,” said Scott Rikkers, director of the Marching Royal Dukes, in an email interview. “We didn’t understand any of the words that were spoken, but yet we were still able to contribute to something much bigger than ourselves through music.”

During the rest of their season, they hosted their first-ever high school Band Day, when an astounding 435 high school students from six different states came to JMU to march on the field with the MRDs during their halftime show. Bridgesforth Stadium swelled with high school and JMU students alike, all coming together to blast the lively MRD favorite, “Get It On” by Bill Chase.

Chase Maszle, a sophomore media arts and design major, served as the communications manager for the Marching Royal Dukes during the historic season.

“The focus on the whole season is never on the trip that we take at the end,” Maszle said. “We just keep our sights on promoting what we do, and that is [being] ambassadors for the university.”

One of the ways the MRDs were able to achieve this goal was by encouraging and promoting high school marching bands. In the fall, the MRDs performed at a Central High School community event in Woodstock, Va., managing to get 1,000 high school musicians from five different communities onto the field to play with one unified sound.

“Even though they were kind of rivals, they all teamed up to do that one event,” Maszle said. “That was the largest grossing event that [Central High School] had done in the history of their football program on a Friday night.”

This was also a significant year for the Marching Royal Dukes’ annual Parade of Champions, hosted by the band at Bridgesforth Stadium. A record-breaking 48 high school marching bands participated in the competition, filling JMU with beautiful symphonies all day long. With thousands of high school students tweeting pictures from the event throughout the day, #JMUPOC began to trend nationally on Twitter, much to the amazement of students and staff alike.

“Our entire goal when we do these types of events is to show, in the eyes of the public and in the eyes of the administrators of these schools, that this stuff really is important,” Maszle said. “This is the result of good high school marching programs: the Marching Royal Dukes.”

The MRDs showed off their skill and finesse at several exhibitions throughout the season. They made themselves known throughout the world and proved the power of music could transcend cultural and linguistic barriers to connect people from all walks of life.

WORDS Michelle Criqui
PHOTO Courtesy of Chase Maszle
DESIGN Megan Rzepka
Senior Cassidy Clayton runs to catch the ball. Clayton played an outfield position for JMU's softball team.

Senior Heather Kiefer winds up to pitch the ball. Kiefer struck out 71 batters last season.
HARD HITS & HIGH SPIRITS

JMU WOMEN’S SOFTBALL TAKES THE WIN

Last spring, the women’s softball team took charge and won their regular season with an outstanding record as well as the conference championship. The women had a terrific season, which was due to their skills, sportsmanship and coaches.

One of the season highlights was a 6-0 win against the University of Hawaii, Manoa that they played in Hawaii. Their season ended with an impressive record of 30-12.

After the team won the regular season they were able to host the CAA conference tournament at home, which was an honor for the team. "We got to prepare on our own field, get hyped up in our own locker room, and celebrate at home with our fans,” said senior pitcher and psychology major Heather Kiefer. "Winning the championship was such a gratifying feeling. We work so hard and it’s a great feeling to see us reach one of our goals.”

The team’s excitement was overwhelming. The Lexington Regional Tournament followed and the JMU team played at the University of Kentucky. DePaul University in Illinois, Ohio University and Kentucky all competed for the title. Unfortunately, JMU lost to DePaul 4-3 in the third game and the University of Kentucky won the Lexington Regional Tournament.

"Being on this team has given me so many great opportunities and led me to find out more about myself and my teammates. Last year’s championship was a great accomplishment for this team and we need to use that experience now to guide us into this season,” said junior pitcher and sports and recreation major Jazlyn Ford. "We have higher goals now and are working every day to achieve those goals but we have to stay focused and perfect the little things.”

WORDS Mary Pitts
PHOTO Courtesy of JMU Athletic Communications
DESIGN Brianne Leach
Senior pitcher Benjamin Ganzer pitches to the batter. The outfielders prepared themselves for a hit.
THE LAST HOME RUN

BASEBALL COACH RETIRES AFTER 18 YEARS

The 2015 baseball season was bittersweet for both JMU players and fans alike, as head coach Joe “Spanky” McFarland retired after 18 years of dedication to his beloved “Diamond Dukes.”

“It’s my curtain call,” McFarland said. “I’m trying to really enjoy every phase of this year and just not take anything for granted. There’s a lot of lasts, but you know, it’s time.”

During the nearly two decades he spent working as a coach, McFarland experienced a variety of the program’s changes throughout the years, including the construction of the brand-new Eagle Field at Veterans Memorial Park in 2010.

Some of the most memorable moments for McFarland and his players were ones that took place as a team, both on and off the field. “The first CAA championship in 2008 was really big,” McFarland said. “The NCAA tournaments were all special, and of course we had a couple CAA and National Players of the Year.”

Perhaps McFarland’s most significant victory as head coach hit particularly close to home when his son, JMU alumnus Tyler “Ty” McFarland, was drafted to the New York Yankees in 2014. “He is the first Yankee in the history of the program,” McFarland said. “So that was special.”

As McFarland reflected on his 18 years at JMU, he recognized that one of the most important duties he had as head coach was training his young Diamond Dukes not only in the art of baseball, but also in the ways of the world. “I’m trying to teach as much as I can, because I won’t have them after this year,” McFarland said. “So I’m trying to hit them up with as much baseball as I’ve got in me, and as much stuff about life, like how to get out into the real world and be a man.”

McFarland’s influence during his time working with the team was especially evident in the impact he had on the team’s senior players. “Coach Mac has had a great influence on me and many other players over the years,” senior business management major and pitcher Patrick Toohers said. “Not only does he make us better players, but he teaches us how to become better men.”

Fellow pitcher, senior kinesiology major Benjamin Garner, reflected on his time spent with Coach McFarland. “Coach Mac is one of the most decorated coaches to ever be at JMU and it’s tough to see him go,” Garner said. “In my four years playing under him, he has taught me how to be a man and step up to the challenges that come my way while being humble and compassionate. He deserves to go out with a bang.”

With 18 illustrious seasons under his belt, Coach McFarland left behind a legacy that would be difficult to top, forever leaving his mark on the history of men’s baseball at JMU. “I hope that [the team] continues developing in order to compete in a better conference,” McFarland said. “I hope that they can make the commitment to baseball and keep it all that we’ve built it up to be.”

WORDS Michelle Criqui
PHOTO Courtesy of JMU Athletics Communications
DESIGN Brianne Leach
Seniors Ryan Williams and Joseph Hewitt both swam on their high school teams, but came to college looking for something different. Williams, an economics major, tried club swim for a few days before finding his true fit: Men's Club Water Polo.

"I swam in high school, but by the time I got to college, I was burnt out and needing something more involved," said Hewitt, a hospitality management major and vice president of the club.

That "something" ended up being competitive water polo, a sport some former swimmers chose to pick up when they came to JMU.

Men's Club Water Polo trained five days each week in the fall semester and four days in the spring. They had tournaments during weekends in the fall and attended invitational meets in the spring.

While still training seriously, Williams, the club's president, emphasized that the sport was about having fun.

"One of my favorite memories was a trip we took to the University of Tennessee for an outdoor invitational meet," Williams said. "We all drove down there and stayed the weekend and had a lot of fun."

When they weren't training or attending tournaments, team members liked to hang out at each other's apartments.

"One weekend, I had all of the guys over to my apartment to watch some [football] and order some wings," Williams said.

Both Williams and Hewitt commented on how solidified all of the men were and the friendships that came from being on a team together.

"We only have about 15 on the roster for this season, but we work well together and we definitely have fun," Williams said.

Being a part of the club has also taught the men how to be better leaders and friends beyond the bounds of the club, especially for team leader Hewitt.

"One of the main things I have learned from this experience was delegation," Hewitt said. "It is hard to be a good leader without knowing how to delegate tasks to other people."

The addition of new members was a top priority for the club.

As a team, Men's Club Water Polo hoped to grow closer as an organization in the coming years, while continuing to add new members who were passionate about the sport.
Playing JMU Women's Club Water Polo involved more than just exercise, it required deep appreciation. 

"I came to JMU knowing I wanted to continue with the sport that I loved," said junior Allison McShea, a graphic design major. McShea even contacted the club's president wanting to know more about the club and how to join. The president invited McShea to come to tryouts in the fall. Two years later, she was elected club president while continuing to lead the team in the water.

Breaking away from other club sports, Women's Club Water Polo showcased the diversity of JMU and its distinct nature. With only 20 women on the team, the members learned to love each other's quirks.

"We are a bunch of misfits and I love it," senior Torrens Revell said. McShea, with the help of Revell, led the women in the water during practices four times a week, generally lasting around two hours each. The team swam, practiced skills and finished the night with a scrimmage.

During a game, six players passed a ball toward a goal on the opposite end of the pool, defended by one goalkeeper. There were special rules that governed gameplay, such as players not being allowed to hold the ball with both hands and that players must tread water the entire game.

Out of the water, this team participated in mixers with other club sports teams, as well as team acts of community service. The women regularly volunteered together with the Harrisonburg International Festival in the fall semester, a bonding experience for the women. The team also had one semi-formal each year in the spring semester with the men's water polo team.

In fact, many of the events of the women's water polo team overlapped with the men's team. They trained together every Tuesday night, bringing the two similar clubs closer together.

Both Revell and McShea remarked that these friendships were something they would take with them when they graduated.

"Since we are such a small team, we really do everything together. We are all best friends," McShea said. From learning how to communicate during games to volunteering together on the weekends, Women's Club Water Polo made its impact not only on JMU's campus, but also in the lives of the women involved.
MISCHIEF MANAGED
Albus Dumbledore once said, "for in dreams we enter a world that is entirely our own. Let them swim in the deepest ocean or glide over the highest cloud."

This was true for JMU Club Quidditch after the fantasy world of Harry Potter came to JMU’s campus.

Based on the “Harry Potter” book series by J.K. Rowling, Quidditch featured wizards flying through the air on broomsticks, while scoring points for their team by throwing balls through hoops. In this adapted version, Club Quidditch players ran through a field while holding a PVC pipe between their legs, the “muggle” equivalent of a broomstick.

Chasers and beaters threw the soccer-ball-like quaffle through elevated hoops on either end of the field, while keepers played defense. Meanwhile, the seekers ran through the field trying to catch a yellow-clad runner, deemed the “snitch.”

“Quidditch is the fastest growing collegiate sport in America,” said junior Brian Donovan, president of the club. “It is sort of a cross between rugby and dodgeball.”

Club Quidditch practiced three times per week and participated in one to two tournaments a month.

Not only was Quidditch rapidly gaining popularity throughout America, but it was also gaining traction at JMU.

“Brian and I took this team from 11 people when we came [to JMU] to over 30 people today,” said vice-president and captain Bennett Morrow, a senior media arts and design major. “It definitely was the greatest challenge I have worked through.”

When the club isn’t practicing on the field, they still are very much involved. The club held an annual Yule Ball, much like the one held in the fourth installment of the series. This event helped fundraise for the team. The Yule Ball also acted as a social for the club members, who dressed up and danced the night away in the Festival Highlands ballroom.

“Yule Ball was a great opportunity to socialize with other teams,” said sophomore media arts and design major Jennifer Pawlowski. “[Virginia] Tech came to hang out and it was super fun.”

Besides encouraging physical fitness, JMU Club Quidditch taught many other skills to the members of its team.

“Persistence was definitely something I learned from my experience on the Quidditch team,” Donovan said. “It definitely gave rise to a lot of different experiences.”

Donovan’s teammate Pawlowski agreed, adding that being on Quidditch gave her the ability to meet other enthusiasts from other schools, whom she would normally not have had the chance to meet.

From field time to the annual Yule Ball, there was something for everyone in JMU Club Quidditch.
Madison Dance was on the move. The club provided entertainment at countless events for other organizations, as well as their own. Madison Dance was an organization that came together to celebrate a shared love of expression through dance. They welcomed dancers from all genres, including ballet, jazz and hip-hop. Through collective expression and dedication to the mastery of dance, they became a club with massive potential.

"It's not a big club," said senior finance major Meghan Cree. "We dance when people reach out to us."

Madison Dance fostered connections between JMU clubs by offering to perform at other club's events. They performed at events such as Relay for Life, giving audiences a proper education in dance.

"We are really trying to make it as big as we can," said junior interdisciplinary liberal studies major Taylor Newland. "But, we still want talented dancers."

Madison Dance became a club in high demand by remaining dedicated to quality. This dedication not only made them a popular club for performances, but also a cohesive company of dancers.

"They just click better than anyone you'll ever meet," said Cree.

Madison Dance built itself on talent. The veterans welcomed the new members, and through long practices, the team built lasting personal connections.

"We're all very, very close," Newland said. "We love dance and we love JMU, so it's a really strong bond that we've formed."

Practices were not only times to improve their technique, but also a time to have fun. This atmosphere of friendship and collective improvement resulted in a group determined to give the best performance while keeping its members happy.

"Even after a long, hard day at school, you still want to go to practice and see everyone," Cree said.

The organization not only dedicated itself to JMU, but also the entire Harrisonburg community.

"We've performed at high schools," Cree said. "It's not just JMU, it's Harrisonburg."

While enjoying every performance, Madison Dance kept their eyes on the future.

"I want to see us do some more performances and grow as a group," Newland said. "We really love performing for the school."

As a club, they were talented and respected for their abilities. As a group of friends, they created strong bonds. Madison Dance, through their chosen medium, created a release for students. If there was ever a need for entertainment or expression, Madison Dance had the audience covered.
The dancers extend their arms and legs as they leap during the performance. Madison Dance members were all experienced dancers.

The dancers shift their weight to their right side while completing their hip-hop routine. Madison Dance practiced in the University Recreation Center.
THE HURDLE

WOMEN’S TRACK AND FIELD SEES GROWTH AMONG ITS MEMBERS

The JMU women’s track and field team hurdled its way to the top during the 2014-2015 season.

The team, led by new Head Coach Cheree Hicks, had several team members qualify for the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Championship this season.

Sophomore history major De’Ana Forbes was one of the qualifying members and held the JMU record in 60-meter hurdles, among other achievements. She also qualified the previous season during the 2014 Sykes-Sabock Challenge Cup at Pennsylvania State University.

“I remember all of my teammates being at the area in front of the finish line to hug me and congratulate me,” said Forbes, in an email interview. “They were all probably more ecstatic than I was!”

This kind of friendship among team members was common. Although the members spent many hours on the track conditioning for meets, they were able to strengthen their relationships outside of practice too.

“I have formed great relationships with my teammates to the point where I see them as sisters,” Forbes said. “The team this year is collectively a lot closer than it has ever been.”

The special connection shared by the team members also extended to their harmonious relationship with the coaches.

“We are able to express humor and show our personalities while being around them,” Forbes said. “We are all basically one big family.”

As a whole, the team had many members who improved their personal best times.

Individual improvement was the key to team advancement and the JMU women’s track and field team wasn’t going to slow down anytime soon.

“One thing that some of us like to do before our races is get into a group and pray for strength and a clear mind as we compete,” Forbes said.

This tradition seemed to do the trick and the team anticipated many more achievements to come.
Sophomore Summer Walter throws a javelin. Walter was a psychology major.

Jilliana Rogers Crowe attempts the high jump at a meet. Crowe trained long to improve her skills.
Most people have considered running, biking or swimming to be difficult enough individually. However, members of the JMU Triathlon Club practiced all three sports on a regular basis.

Triathlon was a sport, usually in a race format, that included swimming, biking and ended with a run. There were different lengths of each leg depending on the competition level.

"I had always considered doing triathlons, but it wasn't until I joined that I actually completed my first race," said Julie Stern, a senior media arts and design major. "That's what I love about triathlons: anyone can race. People think it's really hard and intense, which it can be, but it's something anyone can accomplish."

For the team, practices were different each week. Practices consisted of cycling in UREC's cycle studio, running track or weight lifting. Unlike most sports teams, triathlon was coed; males and females competed in the same races. They also trained and competed together.

Big races could be a hectic time for any athlete. They could also be a time for bonding and team building.

"When we get to the race site, the sun is just rising. We're all tired, but focused on what we need to get done: setting up our transition area, putting on sunscreen, pumping up our bikes, warming up for the swim," Stern said. "Everyone is very helpful for first-time racers as they try to figure out what they need to do. We take, of course, lots and lots of pictures."

Like most outdoor sports, the environment played a huge role in any athlete's performance, positive or negative.

"There can be fast or flat courses, hilly courses or rough water courses," said Carolyn Carlson, a junior biology major who is the club's secretary. "Temperature can play a big role in the race as well. If it is hot, cold or raining then your times and performance can be affected."

When legs of the race got tough and energy was low, the team had little ways of pumping each other up, such as cheering on one another or when passing on bikes or during the run.

"It feels amazing to go as fast as possible down a hill for a moment," Stern said. "Crouched in my aero bars, I feel like a professional cyclist."

The team had a set of new priorities and expectations for the season.

"I think the team goals are to really accommodate new members and share with them what triathlon means to us," Stern said. "Some members come in as incredible athletes and some come in not knowing how to swim, but we always do a great job of including everyone in our team experiences."

The triathlon club's executive board also wanted to ensure that new members didn't feel intimidated.

"We have so many members on the team with such a wide variety of skill and knowledge about the sport, so I would say our main goal is to make sure everyone is capable of meeting their personal goals," Carlson said.

Whether it was improving individual times, level or bonding with the team, the triathlon club offered something for everyone.
The team trains on the stationary bikes in UREC. The club members focused on timing while biking.
ACADEMICS
COLLEGE OF
ARTS & LETTERS
Anthropology
Communication Studies
English
History
International Affairs
Justice Studies
Media Arts and Design
Modern Foreign Languages
Philosophy and Religion
Political Science
Public Policy and Administration
Sociology
Writing, Rhetoric, and Technical Communication
Julianne Guilfoy
English

Courtney Herb
Communication Studies

Erika Hineman
Media Arts and Design

Laquil Humbles
Justice Studies

Leah Hunsinger
Communications Studies

Michael Hyland
Communications Studies

Heather Janus
Communications Studies

Kathleen Kalinsky
Communications Studies

Katrina Kassel
Political Science

Jessica Koutsandreas
Communications Studies

Victoria Price
Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication

Melissa Lavey
Political Science
Michelle Lee  
Media Arts and Design

Rachel Lenchner  
Anthropology

Brian Miller  
Media Arts and Design

Holly Millet  
Sociology

Lauren Ambrose  
Communication Studies

Leandra Ottman  
International Affairs

Alexander Peirce  
Philosophy and Religion

Artem Pekun  
Media Arts and Design

Mary Pitts  
Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communications

Emma Reid  
Sociology

Austin Lande  
Philosophy and Religion

Mollie Reynolds  
Political Science
LEAVING A LEGACY

LONGTIME SMAD PROFESSOR SAYS GOODBYE TO JMU

From Madison College to JMU and Communications Studies to Media Arts and Design, Dr. David Wendelken was there through it all. Since he arrived, his department, as well as the university, had undergone multiple name changes, ending up as the School of Media Arts and Design at James Madison University.

Dr. Wendelken was young and eager to teach when he came to JMU in 1975 and he jumped right into an active role in the student's lives.

"One of my favorite projects to work on was 'The Breeze,' which was great because it was year-round," said Dr. Wendelken. He served as faculty adviser for "The Breeze" from 1975 until 2000.

"I was able to help them with their content and also technologically, by securing modern computers and updating other technology."

Dr. Wendelken was also the adviser for other publications, such as "Madison 101," "Curio" and "22807." Not only did he love working on these magazines, but the students he advised also loved working with him.

"I loved working with [Dr. Wendelken] because he really got my learning style," said Griffin Harrington, a senior media arts and design major. "He gave me a goal, and then just let me go at it. If I needed him, he was there, but he was very hands-off, which is how I love to work."

In the classroom, Dr. Wendelken was best known for SMAD 321, Feature Magazine Production, a three-credit course that fine-tunes student's skills for working on magazines, which eventually would be published at the end of the semester.

"I came into JMU fighting for [this class], in 1978, they listened to me and I have been teaching this class every spring semester since," Dr. Wendelken said.

While magazine feature writing was a class Dr. Wendelken founded and championed, some of his favorite classes to teach were graphics courses.

"SMAD 201 is an introductory level graphics course, and I have really enjoyed teaching that over the years," said Dr. Wendelken.

Being a part of the JMU community was a very positive experience for Dr. Wendelken, who loved the friendly nature of JMU students, even after they graduated.

"One of the funnest things is seeing students graduate and then get married and 20 years later, I have their kid sitting in one of my classes," Dr. Wendelken said.

He appreciated how loyal the alumni were to JMU years after they graduated and how some of them continued on to become successful professionals.

"We have had two Pulitzer Prize winners graduate from JMU and that is one of the most gratifying experiences as a professor. We must be doing something right here at JMU," Dr. Wendelken said.

When Dr. Wendelken wasn't teaching or advising students, he spent most of his time photographing nature and doing outdoor activities. His favorite activities included gardening and hiking in Shenandoah National Park, but his greatest passion was nature photography.

"I love taking trips to Central and South America because the biodiversity there is incredible," Dr. Wendelken said. "I have photographed some species that are rarely caught on camera."

Dr. Wendelken loved capturing hummingbirds in flight, colorful insects, and close-up shots of many other animals. He said that when he retired he would continue to live in the Valley, but take trips to biodiverse countries. He wished to help countries protect and preserve their beautiful wildlife.

Whether lecturing in the classroom, or working as an adviser, Dr. David Wendelken gave new meaning to the word legacy and left his mark on Madison.

WORDS Hannah Adams
PHOTO Hannah Adams and Courtesy of Dr. David Wendelken
DESIGN Megan Rzepek
Dr. Wendelken shows the student magazines published in his class. Students worked on the magazines in class during the semester.

Dr. Wendelken snaps a photo of a hummingbird flapping its wings. Hummingbirds were the tiniest birds in the world.

Dr. Wendelken sits on the barbed wire. Nature was one of Dr. Wendelken's favorite things to photograph.
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
Accounting
Computer Information Systems
Economics
Finance
Hospitality & Tourism Management
Hospitality Management
International Business Management
Marketing
Quantitative Finance
Sport & Recreation Management
Kyle Clarke  
Sports & Recreation Management

Chelsea Cleary  
Hospitality Management

Malcolm Coate  
Accounting

Zachary Conte  
Business Management

Kendall Cox  
Accounting

Christina Dean  
Hospitality Management

Christopher Digangi  
Accounting

Denise Daravam  
International Business

Mohamed Elsayed  
Finance

Sean-Evan Evaro  
Sports & Recreation Management

Amanda Fassbender  
Computer Information Systems

Brett Garrison  
Sports & Recreation Management
Xavia Gary
Sport and Recreation Management

Ayrton Glasper
Sport and Recreation Management

Almerindo Graziano
International Business

Alexander Guerin
Marketing

Beatris Haddon
Finance

Jeffrey Hajek
Sport and Recreation Management

Liang He
Accounting

Yuting He
Accounting

Duong Ho
Business Management

Timothy Managhan
Economics

Jackson Neal
Economics

Juoying Pan
Computer Information Systems
Danielle Kerns  
Accounting

Chelsea Kirton

Zhenkai Li  
Computer Information Systems

Meron Little  
Hospitality Management

Yiran Liu  
Computer Information Systems

Matthew McCue  
Marketing

Connor McGuire  
Accounting

Adrienne Mestre  
Hospitality Management

Joshua Mize  
Finance

Sara Hochman  
Hospitality Management

Dylan Katcher  
Marketing
TAKING THE LEAD

SUCCESSFUL JMU ALUMNAE VISIT CAMPUS TO EMPOWER YOUNG WOMEN AND NETWORK

The Women in Leadership Conference gave students the opportunity to learn how to score their dream job, self-branding and networking skills. Speakers included Bethany Clark, Director of Global Customer Engagement and Community at TOMS; Dr. Mary Gowan, Dean of the College of Business, and entrepreneur Megan Bazzle.
The Women in Leadership Conference is designed to “help students navigate the transition from college to career,” according to the event website. Many of the students enjoyed the different personalities of the speakers.

With more than 200 female students eagerly waiting in a packed lecture hall on a Saturday morning, the second annual Women in Leadership Conference produced a much greater turnout than anticipated.

“It’s definitely important for these students to learn how to build a support system post-college, and they need to understand the gender dynamics of the workplace and how to prepare for this environment,” 2007 alumna and keynote speaker Gwendolyn Brantley said.

After continued effort and collaboration driven by the student-run event planning committee, the “Navigating Your Journey” conference was held to inform female students how to successfully transition from college to career.

“At last year’s conference, only 14 people showed up,” sophomore accounting major Victoria Sault said. “Our planning committee felt it would be great to see the event grow for students, so we’ve been meeting since last year and contacting alumni from each JMU college and asking them to share their experiences.”

Twelve women from different career backgrounds traveled from various locations across the country to reveal how they not only faced challenges in the workforce, but also thrived.

“I think Chiquita King was the most influential speaker because she was so passionate about wanting to see us succeed,” said junior international affairs and economics double major Angelmary Gyamfi. “She gave unique advice that she learned from working [at Booz Allen Hamilton], like always know your value and let your work speak for you, but never be afraid to speak up.”

Together, these professionals gave back to the JMU community by sharing their experiences with students about the value of internships, how to nail the interview, land a dream job and the importance of networking.

“It was refreshing to hear an employer [Virginia Coles] discuss what employers are actually looking for in job candidates. I learned that during the job interview, employers already know that you’re hardworking and smart, so instead they want to hear how you can help the company achieve its goals, and what ideas and contributions you’ll bring to the table,” junior computer science major Kelsey Jones said.

Students who attended the second annual Women in Leadership conference learned valuable skills and were inspired to be strong competitors in the job market.

WORDS Jillian Wright
PHOTOS Jillian Wright
DESIGN Alexandra Rathjens
Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies
A student in the interdisciplinary liberal studies program works with a child in her practicum. MSU offers to students who want to teach preschool, elementary school or middle school children.
JMU College of Education students interact with the unique children that they mentor in the COE practicum program. Students in the program spent the semester learning about life in the classroom: doing physical activities, arts & crafts, and playing games with children.
The presence of student teachers in the public schools surrounding Harrisonburg was an integral part of JMU’s academic tradition, gaining its roots from its former status as a state teachers college in the 1920s.

This tradition continued into the 21st century, as JMU’s College of Education practicum program allowed students to get out of the lecture hall and into public school classrooms, applying what they had learned in their education classes to real-life situations and gaining wisdom from experts in their field.

Leigh Anne Pastore, a junior interdisciplinary liberal studies major, began her first semester in practicum teaching in a kindergarten classroom at Edward G. Clymore Elementary School in Fort Defiance, Va.

“You’re basically just a teacher for a day,” Pastore said. “You go and do everything a normal classroom would do, like make lesson plans and do read-alouds with books.”

For each semester’s practicum, education students were assigned to a specific section related to their concentration. Each section was given a classroom, which students visited once a week, working with professional teachers to apply what they learned and gain firsthand experience in their field.

“I’m in a literacy class all about how kids learn language,” Pastore said. “It’s cool because I actually get to see how [children] are learning to read and write.”

During her practicum, Pastore was also required to write a case study on a student from her assigned classroom. The case study detailed the different cognitive, physical, emotional and behavioral aspects of the student’s development.

“You have to get parental consent,” Pastore said. “Because you [are] taking pictures and observing them a lot.”

Stormey Wright, a senior interdisciplinary liberal studies major, worked with fifth graders at North River Elementary School in Mount Solon, Va. as a part of her second practicum at JMU.

 “[Practicum] is very beneficial,” Wright said. “You can sit in a classroom and learn about teaching strategies, but once you get into the classroom, you get that firsthand experience, which I’m a firm believer in.”

Both Pastore and Wright, who were both working toward certification to teach elementary education, gained a lot of insight during practicum that they would need for their future careers in education.

“I’ve learned good classroom management skills and just the kind of teacher I want to be,” Pastore said. “I pick up little things from my teacher and other teachers, from [their] past experiences.”

Wright, who originally had her heart set on teaching kindergarten, realized in her fifth-grade practicum that educating older, more self-reliant students was a much more rewarding challenge than she had anticipated.

“I loved kindergarten when I did it [in practicum], and I always wanted to work with younger kids,” Wright said. “But now I love teaching fifth grade. I love how independent and smart they are. It’s very different from kindergarten, where you’re [mainly] teaching life and behavior skills.”

Wright also learned some valuable lessons while working as a student teacher in practicum that helped define what kind of teacher she hoped to become.

“[I learned] how to become the teacher in the classroom, while still listening to what the children want,” Wright said.

The College of Education’s practicum program provided future teachers with the chance to get out of the usual, college lecture hall setting and into local schools, working directly with children and gaining insight into different teaching styles they hoped to implement in their own classrooms someday.

WORDS Michelle Criqui
PHOTO Jillian Wright
DESIGN Megan Rzepka
IORAL STUDIES

 Athletic Training
 Communication Sciences and Disorders
 Dietetics
 Health Science
 Health Services Administration
 Kinesiology
 Nursing
 Psychology
 Social Work
Rashidah Burns
Nursing

Deborah Cameron
Health Sciences

Justin Canny
Health Sciences

Tracey Carney
Communications Sciences and Disorders

Danling Chen
Dietetics

Meredith Cherry
Psychology

Kelsey Cunningham
Nursing

Daniel Dadson
Health Sciences

Gabrielle Edwards
Communications Sciences and Disorders

Karyn Edwards
Psychology

Jillian Fisher
Kinesiology

Sarah Fleisher
Nursing
Isabel Jimenez-Bush  
Health Science

Samantha Johnson  
Kinesiology

Ashley Kalavritinos  
Psychology

Yana Karass  
Social Work

Torie Kennelly  
Communication Sciences & Disorders

Cas Kowalewski  
Health Science

Stephanie Lessard  
Communication Sciences & Disorders

Meili Liu  
Psychology

Savannah Longnecker  
Nursing

Rachel Larkin  
Psychology

Eriel Leabotter  
Health Science
Jennifer Louie  
Health Science

Allison Lawden  
Health Science

Amber Lyon  
Health Science

Porio Moghsoudi  
Psychology

Ashley Marinacci  
Nursing

Nataly Martin  
Psychology

Alison Miles  
Health Science

Cheyenne Mabanye  
Psychology

Melissa Morgan  
Health Science

Alexis Morse  
Psychology

Terri Motley  
Health Science

Sydney Mullen  
Health Science
Helen Rickey
Health Science

Devon Rogers
Health Science

Hope Sadowski
Health Science

Rosemary Sangabriel
Social Work

Nicholas Savage
Health Science

Amanda Schultz
Health Science

Arianna Sessoms
Psychology

Lawanne Simonic
Nursing

Erin Sprouse
Health Science

Kewoma Tujuan-Kella
Health Science

Emily Titus
Kinesiology

Jasmine Waddell
Kinesiology
Sarah Pomeroy (TOP, LEFT) and other students pose in front of the CARITAS sign where they were placed for their social work social work field placement. Pomeroy said that it was
“gratifying to feel useful and use the skills [she] learned in class.” Asiza Isler (BOTTOM) was placed in the Office of Disability Services. Her experience was more geared toward office work, but she still felt that the experience was valuable to her skills in social work.
FIELD PLACEMENT GIVES STUDENTS REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE

At some point in a student's college career, he or she might think to themselves: "When am I ever going to use this?" Students within the social work major answered this question during their semester-long field placement.

When social work majors entered senior year, they took a field placement test, similar to a job placement test. After they interviewed with the director of field placement, Dr. Cynthia Hunter, who would use the data from the interview and placement test to match each student up with a program.

"I remember waiting around for the placement sheet to come out. Everyone was really anxious and I was so excited to find out where I got to work in the [spring] semester," senior Elizabeth Parker said.

Parker was placed locally, working with Harrisonburg City Public Schools. She worked both in an office setting and in the field at a preschool program within a local elementary school.

"I absolutely love working with the kids. I get to spend time with them individually as well as in groups, and work with them doing things like counting from one to ten," Parker said.

Parker was not only able to use her major classes during fieldwork but her minor classes as well.

"It was very exciting to me to be able to use the information I learned in [my exceptional education] classes with some of the kids [in the preschool program]," Parker said.

Not all placements were local. Senior Sarah Pomeroy was placed with a nonprofit organization called Congregations Around Richmond Involved To Assure Shelter or CARITAS. This social services organization worked with local churches in the Richmond area to set up shelters for the homeless, giving them a place to sleep, especially during the cold winter months.

"It is so gratifying to feel useful and use the skills I learned in class," Pomeroy said. "I get to make an impact on people's lives, and that is amazing to see."

Even though she met with clients a couple times a week, the majority of Pomeroy's work was in the office, shadowing her administrator and working on case notes.

This was typical work for a social worker, according to senior Aasiza Iler, who was placed on-campus with the Office of Disability Services.

"I am a jack of all trades," Iler said. "On a typical day, I'll come in, read some emails, go to a meeting, review some documentation and help out with disability registration appointments for current and prospective students."

While it didn't seem like classroom lectures were directly applicable to handling paperwork and scheduling appointments, Iler thought differently.

"One of the main things I've learned here is to put on my 'social work hat' and apply what I've learned about [the different theories] to the given situation," Iler said. "I hope to be working with homeless outreach programs when I graduate, but working with disability services has taught me a lot about things I wouldn't usually think about."

Although not everyone was placed directly into the field they wanted to be in once they graduated, the internships still offered valuable learning experiences, proving that classroom learning was not the only thing JMU students took with them after their time at JMU.
COLLEGE OF
INTEGRATED SCI...
ENCE ENGINEERING

Computer Science Engineering
Integrated Science and Technology
Inteligence Analysis
Geographic Science
HEMATICS

Astronomy
Biology
Biochemistry
Earth Science
Geology
Mathematics
Physics
Statistics
Abby Perlin
Biology

Mabel Adubafour
Mathematics

Rachel Allen
Mathematics

Michael Blufield
Biology

Danielle Drumhelier
Biology

Giuliana Estrella Copplind

Deandra Gaines
Justin Porter
Kevin Hunter
Physics

MacKenzie Koope
Biology

Christopher Lien
Timothy Louie
Geology
Dr. Samantha Prins is an Associate Professor in the math and science department. "My experience at JMU has been a positive one," Dr. Prins said.
DEVIATING FROM THE NORM

STATISTICS PROFESSOR PROMOTES THE SIGNIFICANCE OF STEM

Statistically speaking, not many women actually taught statistics. One JMU professor broke that trend, Associate Professor in the mathematics and statistics department, Dr. Samantha Prins, taught general education elementary statistics, as well as 300 and 400 level courses for those who majored or minored in statistics.

Dr. Prins came to America after graduating from the University of Auckland in New Zealand. She attended graduate school and received her master's and doctorate in statistics from the University of Washington in Seattle. Before coming to JMU, Dr. Prins was a faculty member at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University for five years. She had taught statistics for a total of 14 years.

"It was actually a combination of things that made me think of teaching statistics," Dr. Prins said in an email interview. "While in college, I was involved in educational programs with adults for a nonprofit group that rescued stranded whales and was also working weekly with two young girls who were recent immigrants in their English skills and acclimating them to the New Zealand culture."

Being a female professor in a male-dominated field and major was not an issue for Dr. Prins, whose upper-level classes had a good mix of both genders.

"My experience at JMU has been a positive one. Thinking about the full-time faculty in our department only, just under half are female, so I am not surrounded by primarily males," Dr. Prins said. "It is important for any student, no matter their gender, to have the level of quantitative literacy needed to succeed."

According to Dr. Prins, the United States needed more science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) graduates for any gender. Specifically, more female STEM graduates were needed, in the underrepresentation of females in STEM disciplines.

"There is no innate reason why females cannot succeed in STEM fields but more needs to be done to counter some of the obstacles, [such as] improving family-friendly practices and reducing the stereotypes surrounding STEM," Dr. Prins said.

Dr. Prins found it was important not to make gender the issue and focus more on the student.

"I don't promote incorrect stereotypes that women are somehow less capable than men in STEM fields," Dr. Prins said. "Given that just under half of the full-time faculty in our department are female, our students have visible role models of success by females in a STEM field."

WORDS Mary Pitts
PHOTO Kendal Brown
DESIGN Jacqueline Garcia
COLLEGE OF VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS
MING ARTS

Art Education
Art History
Art, Graphic Design
Art, Interior Architecture
Art, Studio
Music
Theatre and Dance
Michael Bendit
Theatre and Dance

Nicola Ciehoski
Studio Art

Mary Fakoury
Studio Art

Chelsea Flores Casillas
Studio Art

Shelby Hanson
Studio Art

Mary Lowman
Theatre and Dance

Nicholas Pope
Music

Kelly Rudolph
Theatre and Dance

Rachel Williams

Jasmine Shaw
Theatre and Dance
Art students work in their sketchbooks while their professor lectures. JMU students could pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with a concentration in ceramics, fibers, metals, painting and drawing, photography, printmaking or sculpture.

PHOTO | JMU Marketing Photography Department
BABY I'M ALL SHOOK UP

SPRING MUSICAL LIGHTS UP THE MAINSTAGE
Students couldn’t help falling in love with the performance of “All Shook Up” Feb. 25, 2014 to Mar. 2, 2014. Rock ‘n’ roll songs such as, “Jailhouse Rock,” “Blue Suede Shoes” and “Heartbreak Hotel” were integrated into the musical numbers during last spring’s production on the Mainstage Theatre at Forbes Center. The student-led cast sang and danced to the 1950s music for eight days of performances.

“All Shook Up” was written by Joe DiPietro and inspired by the music of Elvis Presley. The writers based the story on William Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night.”

“All Shook Up” took place in 1955 in a small, Midwestern town where a leather-jacketed, guitar-playing stranger and a girl’s dream helped the townspeople find a love for rock ‘n’ roll. The up-tempo musical shared the stories of multiple love triangles and the issue of race inequality in an uptight town.

Junior Landon Dufrene, a musical theatre major, played the lead role of Chad. Chad was a rebel or “roustabout,” who was released from prison, stormed into the Midwestern town and unexpectedly fell in love with a young mechanic.

“Looking back, the journey of the play and how it progressed helped myself overall as a performer,” Dufrene said, in an email interview. “It’s a very energizing show and you learn how much you need to give every moment of it.”

Junior theatre and dance major Shaun Nerney played the role of 16-year-old Dean Hyde, who attended a military boarding school and fell in love with a young African-American girl.

“My experience was definitely educational,” Nerney said. “Dealing with a major issue such as race can be tough because we as performers don’t want to insult anyone. But, the production team as well as our director, Kate Arecchi, did a brilliant job to make sure we all approached the material with knowledge of the time period.”

Among many of the on-stage relationships, the story ends with Nerney and Dufrene both finding the women they fell in love with from the start.

Nerney believed the race issue in the musical was still relevant to address in today’s society.

“Looking back on the musical now, I realized how much race inequality there is today,” Nerney said. “This summer with the Ferguson issue and many others, it allowed me to see how it related back to the show and how relevant the show’s message is today.”

According to the New York Times, on Aug. 9, 2014, Michael Brown, an unarmed African-American teenager, was shot and killed by Darren Wilson, a Caucasian police officer, in Ferguson, Mo. The shooting provoked riots and protests that shook the Ferguson community and other communities across the country. On November 24, 2014, a grand jury decided not to indict Wilson. This announcement triggered more protests.

Backstage of the Mainstage Theatre, the production team brought DiPietro’s story to life on stage through interactive sets and old-fashioned, yet colorful costumes. The sets portrayed a real-life 1950s town with sceneries, such as a classic gas station, auto body shop and fairground. The costume designs transitioned as the play progressed through the two acts. Before Chad arrived in the first act, the town was very strict and the costumes mirrored this atmosphere. As he made an influence on the town, the costumes began to reflect the evolving, vibrant attitudes.

This Elvis-infused production brought attendees such as family members, students, faculty and members of the Harrisonburg community to Forbes Center. The 2014 spring musical sold a combined 2,852 tickets for the seven performances. According to the Forbes Center box office, the musical sold out for the Friday performance, both Saturday performances and the Sunday performance. The overall attendance rate was 85 percent.

By the end of the play, hands were shaky and knees were weak as the cast of “All Shook Up” bowed for their excellent performance at Forbes Center.

WORDS Mary Pitts and Paige Lobuts
PHOTO Courtesy of Forbes Center of Performing Art
DESIGN Megan Rzepka and Paige Lobuts

SPRING MUSICAL | 281
ALPHA KAPPA DELTA PHI SORORITY, INC.

FIRST ROW Phoebe Tran, Kaitlyn Chieh  SECOND ROW Kaitlyn Nakamura, Ingrid Caranza, Youjung Kim.

THE PURPOSE OF ALPHA KAPPA DELTA PHI IS TO PROMOTE SISTERHOOD SCHOLARSHIP LEADERSHIP
CHINESE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

TO SPREAD

CHINESE HERITAGE & CULTURAL AWARENESS
BUILDING HOPE

The organization is open to anyone who is interested. "You don't have to have any experience," said Darya Leon-Duran.

Serri Rose is the current secretary. She helped build benches for a weekend trip to campuses.

Earning the title of Senior A is building houses. Senior Chris Davis loves being involved in projects.
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY MEMBERS GIVE BACK TO MULTIPLE COMMUNITIES

While most students treasured the ability to sleep in on the weekends, other students woke up early to build homes for those who did not have one.

"Whenever I have a free weekend, I think why not go on a 'build'?” said senior co-president and Spanish major Chloe Ebel, who has devoted many Saturdays working to build homes for people in need of a place to live.

JMU’s Habitat for Humanity chapter gave students the opportunity to work with a renowned international organization and serve communities while learning new skills.

Senior biology major Louis Damiano described the on-campus organization as gateway to get people involved with the community.

Since Habitat for Humanity was found in 1976, the organization has built and repaired more than 800,000 homes. More than four million people live in Habitat homes. Recipients of homes worked alongside Habitat affiliates and volunteers to construct the shelter they desperately needed.

Habitat homeowners were required to spend a minimum of 400 hours working on their homes and those of their neighbors. Habitat for Humanity called this work "sweat equity," which ensured that homeowners were invested in their new homes and encouraged community involvement.

Throughout the year, members of the club spent their Saturdays attending builds and helping out on the construction sites. Students had the opportunity to sign up online for upcoming builds. On the build weekends, two executive members would lead 10 to 15 general body members on a build. The builds rotated between four to five sites located in Virginia and West Virginia.

When students arrived at the sites, the projects were in various phases. Any task was fair game including shingling roofs, painting walls, landscaping, building wall frames and even demolition.

"A great thing about Habitat is that you don’t have to have any experience,” Damiano said.

He also emphasized how the Habitat affiliates on site provided guidance to club members as well as the tools needed to complete different tasks.

Damiano first became involved with Habitat for Humanity during his senior year of high school when he worked on a project rebuilding townhouses in downtown Baltimore, Md. to provide shelter for people who had lost their homes.

Senior communication sciences and disorders major Kristen Ferrara traveled to Florida with the JMU chapter during the spring break of her sophomore year.

Ferrara served as the club’s secretary for the 2014-15 school year, during which, as many as 150 students attended meetings held twice a month.

During the biweekly meetings, icebreakers and team building activities helped members become acquainted with each other. These activities helped bridge the gap between the general body and executive members, which was supplemented by adding social events during the school year.

While Ebel led a build in West Virginia, she had the opportunity to speak with a woman who was in the process of earning hours for her own Habitat home.

"Getting to hear her story and all of the things they went through and how she was trying to better her family and the place they were living was really inspiring," Ebel said.

Students who dedicated their time to weekend builds found that lessons learned off-campus often related back to the JMU community.

WORDS Madeline Holden
PHOTO Selena St. Andre
DESIGN Alexandra Rathjens
SIGMA GAMMA RHΩ SORORITY INC.

PUBLIC SERVICE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION OF YOUTH ARE THE HALLMARK OF THE ORGANIZATION'S PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES
LEARN, PRACTICE, & BECOME SKILLED IN THE SPORT OF FENCING
Freshman John Nguyen waits to hit the ball back to his opponent. Table tennis required intense concentration and attention.

A team member serves the ball to start a game. Players had to try out to make the team.
In fall 2014, a new club bounced onto JMU's athletic scene: Club Table Tennis, a sport in which players attempted to hit a small, lightweight ball back and forth across a table with a paddle, commonly known as ping-pong. The club was founded by sophomore sports and recreation management major Michael Contino and his friend Tucker Firnstahl, a sophomore engineering major.

"There wasn’t [a table tennis club] when we came here last year as freshmen, so me and my friends started it,” Firnstahl said. "I’ve always played [table tennis], I just think it’s fun."

Contino and Firnstahl, the organization’s president and vice president, respectively, held tryouts in the fall to assemble the best possible team for future competitions.

"We didn’t know how many people even liked [table tennis] at JMU," Firnstahl said. "Then a bunch of people came out, so we were like, ‘All right, we’re going to try to make it competitive.’"

From the roughly 50 table tennis players who tried out for the team, only half of them made the cut.

"We just had them play and watch, and kind of just judged them based on that,” Firnstahl said. "It was kind of weird, because I’m not used to being a coach. I don’t have a pedigree or anything. I just play in my attic.”

Melanie Diakun, a freshman business and finance major, was the only female table tennis player on the team alongside roughly 24 men.

"I played tennis when I was younger, and then I just started picking up [table tennis] when I was, like, seven,” Diakun said. "I like that [Club Table Tennis] is very relaxed and really laid back.”

Diakun competed as an equal competitor among the men, beating out at least 25 other players to earn a spot on the team. She was particularly excited to show off her sharpened skills in competitions in the near future.

"Playing other schools would be fun, to get to travel somewhere and play,” Firnstahl said. "That’s our goal.”

Club Table Tennis provided an environment for lovers of the game to get together and play in a fun, laid-back environment, while also strengthening their skills.

WORDS Michelle Criqji
PHOTO Jillicn Wright
DESIGN Ana Garcia
FIRST ROW: Tyler Stephens, Taylor Berrenal (Secretary), Olivia Cyprell, Madalyn Litchfield, Jamie Martin, Myah McNutt. SECOND ROW: Dehon Gibbs (Treasurer), Jeremy Logan Hohman, Zach Zilnikas, Will Clements, Jasmin Montigny, Ari Hallam (webmaster), Shelby Creeley. THIRD ROW: Matthew Turner, Max Beller, Parker Green, James Waugh (President), Michael Rasmussen (VP), Katie Noble, Greg Soffenman, Shannon Sullivan.
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

FOSTERING A "PROACTIVE INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT"

Entertainment had never been more accessible than it was in 2015. With countless Internet resources like YouTube, Hulu Plus, Twitter and Netflix, it was often considered taboo to not be aware of each new viral trend.

From John Travolta mispronouncing Idina Menzel’s name as the “wickedly talented Adele Dazeem” at the 2014 Academy Awards to the awfully hilarious dance moves by the left shark during Katy Perry’s Super Bowl XLIX halftime show, the ever-changing world of entertainment was definitely at its peak in 2015.

According to Business Insider, the top-grossing movies of the year included “Guardians of the Galaxy,” “The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies” and “The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1,” all of which quickly became fan-favorites.

Other smaller-scale indie films such as “Boyhood” and “The Imitation Game” were critically acclaimed and snagged several Academy Awards nominations.

For undeclared freshman Caitlin Manning and freshman interdisciplinary liberal studies major Gary Grace Clark getting to see their favorite books come to life on-screen was another exciting experience.

“My favorite movie in the past year was ‘Mockingjay – Part 1,’” Manning said. “I read the books, so I was looking forward to it. It was intense.”

Clark favored “The Fault in Our Stars,” a romantic tearjerker about star-crossed teenaged lovers with cancer.

“I read the book, and I really love John Green,” Clark said. “So I was just really excited for the movie.”

The 2014-2015 television season was also a special one. Popular shows such as “Orange is the New Black” returned while other breakout hits such as “How to Get Away with Murder” made their debut.

Many were impressed with the critical and commercial success of “Orange in the New Black,” citing its fresh perspective and primarily female cast.

“I like [Orange in the New Black],” said senior psychology major Victoria Dann. “I like how it focuses on women in prison, because they are not incarcerated as much as men. I also think it shows a lot of diversity in the population of the incarcerated.”

Moreover, other top-rated hits such as the scientific comedy, “The Big Bang Theory,” creepy thriller “American Horror Story” and fantasy drama “Game of Thrones” continued to steal the show.

“I like everything about ‘Game of Thrones,’” said Christopher Wood, a freshman computer information systems major. “It’s the best show ever.

[ I like] how developed all the characters are.”

Older shows, such as the cult classic 1990s sitcom, “Friends,” found renewed popularity after becoming available to stream on Netflix.

The series finales of popular shows struck a chord with audiences, as was the case with the highly controversial “How I Met Your Mother” finale in 2014. Several other long-running shows also came to an end in 2015, including: “Glee,” “Parks and Recreation,” “Sons of Anarchy” and “The Late Show with David Letterman,” which concluded after a record-breaking 33 years on television.

Iconic satirical news program “The Colbert Report” also reached the end of its run after host Stephen Colbert announced he was replacing Letterman on “The Late Show.” Jon Stewart also announced he would be leaving “The Daily Show” after 16 years at the helm.

When it came to music, this year was also full of big developments.

“I don’t listen to popular music too much. Sorry, that sounded totally hipster, like, ‘I’m so mainstream,’” Dann said. “I like the blond one who sings about big butts. Meghan Trainor. I’m all about that body positivity.”

“All About That Bass,” the song to which Dann was referring, was Trainor’s breakout hit. It reached number one on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and caused significant controversy when many critics claimed it did not promote the body positive message it intended.

Nicki Minaj’s “Anaconda” also caused similar controversy.

Other smash hits included “Shake It Off” by Taylor Swift, “Thinking Out Loud” by Ed Sheeran, “Fancy” by Iggy Azalea and “Uptown Funk” by Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars. The industry also saw the arrival of newcomer Sam Smith and Taylor Swift’s album, “1989.”

“I did like [2015],” Taylor Swift’s new album, “1989,”

whether someone was a fan or not, these were the movies, shows and music that defined the year. The entertainment industry witnessed plenty of changes and there were many more expected to come.

WORDS Michelle Criqui
PHOTO Danielle Lerer
DESIGN Leah Jacobs

ENTERTAINMENT | 295
THE BREEZE

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY'S

"NEWS SOURCE"
VIETNAMESE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

TO SPREAD AND PROMOTE
"VIETNAMESE HERITAGE"
TO THE JMU COMMUNITY
The sisters of Gamma Phi Beta visit a local pumpkin patch in the fall. The sisters partake in many activities around Harrisonburg.
The JMU Greek community was all about fostering positive growth and change. On Dec. 7, 2014, the new sorority, Gamma Phi Beta received its charter. As the chapter installed on campus, the women took part in the initiative to expand the Greek community.

“I personally feel like we have a purpose on this JMU campus, so I just felt like when we got our charter, it signified us bringing a little bit of change to JMU,” Gamma Phi Beta President and junior interdisciplinary liberal studies major Margaret Martell said.

The Eta Nu chapter was founded after the international organization of Gamma Phi Beta had an expansion team present its organization to the Fraternity and Sorority Life at JMU. Afterward, FSL voted to expand and let Gamma Phi Beta join the community.

The organization then had collegiate leadership consultants recruit women after fall formal recruitment ended for other Panhellenic chapters. Interviews were then held and then a select group of women received their bids, according to Martell.

“When we got our bids, we were really excited,” Martell said. “We were just really interested in starting something new on campus.”

With 203 members, the JMU chapter was the largest chapter that’s been colonized in Gamma Phi Beta history.

The sorority hoped to make a positive impact through their philanthropy “Girls on the Run,” an after-school program for middle school girls who trained for a 5K. “It’s really cool because we get to run with them and you have a running buddy,” Martell said. “It’s just really empowering for young women.”

Last semester, the chapter went to a “Girls on the Run” program and they looked into starting a program at one of the schools in Harrisonburg.

“It’s a lot of funding so right now we’re in the works of seeing if it’s doable, you know, within this next year,” Martell said. “It’s definitely one of our really long term goals.”

Martell also hoped her sorority would positively impact women on and off the JMU campus.

“We’re also working really hard to build a positive image around campus … just being a role model for women on this campus and also younger women off campus,” Martell said. “That’s something that all of us have big values in.”

The chapter also hoped to get involved on campus by participating in the philanthropy weeks of other Greek organizations.

This year, the sorority didn’t participate in spring recruitment because they met the quota set by Fraternity and Sorority Life, but they looked forward to participating in formal recruitment in Fall 2015.

“We’re excited to do one in the fall because we’re all new and we’ve never participated on the other side,” Martell said.

Another addition that the sorority members were excited about was the new on campus sorority house, which would be ready by fall recruitment. The new sorority house, currently called Spruce Hall, would be redone over the summer.

Christina Kormis, a freshman marketing major, was one of the many sorority sisters who planned to live in the house next year.

“I decided to live in the house next year because I can strengthen my relationship with my sisters, if that’s possible and be myself knowing I will not get judged,” Kormis said.

The sorority hoped to impact their community and create a strong sisterhood; something the sisters believed their chapter excelled at doing.

“My favorite part about Gamma Phi Beta is always having someone that wants to hang to with me,” Kormis said. “Even if a girl doesn’t really know me very well, they are always there to get lunch with you, or go to a football game with you and to simply just brighten your day.”

Kormis was continuously motivated by her sisters’ internal beauty.

“My sisters are truly beautiful women externally, but their internal beauty surpasses their outer beauty,” Martell said. “That is what keeps me going every day.”

The sorority was also welcomed by many organizations throughout the JMU community, including the members of the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Council community. Each week, the sorority received additional support by meeting with the presidents of the Panhellenic community. Martell enjoyed this because they were able to bounce ideas off of each other and come up with solutions to any problems that arose.

Martell also enjoyed being able to make the sorority their own.

“Being a part of a new sorority, I like how we get to make it what we want,” Martell said. “Going in completely fresh, we get to make our own traditions, we get to decide what we want to be like.”

Gamma Phi Beta was off to a great start by getting their name and values out to the rest of the JMU campus.

WORDS Erin Flynn
PHOTO Alexis Painter
DESIGN Jacqueline Garcia
EMPOWER WOMEN
TO BE THE
ARCHITECTS OF CHANGE
FIRST ROW | Latasha Williams, Stephanie Gamble, Kees Davis.

ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INC.

OUR PRINCIPLE OF

"FINER WOMANHOOD" SETS US APART
The WRTC students observe the 1855 cookbook in the special collections in Carrier Library. The cookbook was found in Elkton, Va.

Special collections librarian Lynn Eaton shows the students around the different sections of the special collections department. The students visited the department in the beginning of the school year before they began research.

Junior Paige Lobuta presents her research to hospitality management lecturer Tassie Pippert and her husband. The students spent many hours working on these projects in and outside of class.
JMU Libraries sought to preserve the past, present, and future of the Shenandoah Valley. The objective of the multimedia creation, Shenandoah Living Archive, was to make undergraduate research an essential part of archival work at JMU. The Director of Collections, Genya O’Gara, and special collections librarian, Lynn Eaton, initiated the project in early 2014.

“The Shenandoah Living Archive places the emphasis on the living,” said writing, rhetoric, and technical communication assistant professor Sean McCarthy. “It’s not just about collecting objects from the past, which is how we often think of archives, but also trying to record contemporary life as well.”

The archive recruited students from McCarthy’s WRTC 450 Digital Rhetoric fall semester class and had them create prototype exhibits using digital storytelling tools. The researchers analyzed items of the past, such as a cookbook from 1855 or old street maps of Harrisonburg that depicted the urban renewal that occurred in the 1960s. The students digitally archived them so it was more accessible to the public.

“My class took on JMU’s [Libraries And Educational Technologies] as a client and worked with them to achieve these prototype exhibits,” McCarthy said.

After extensive research, a common theme emerged and the movement of people in the Valley quickly became the heart of the project. Stories were researched and written focusing on the large immigrant and refugee populations in Harrisonburg. The stories detailed where the refugees came from and what they did when they settled in Harrisonburg.

“I loved learning about the immigrants and refugees, especially the ones from the Philippines. It was by far my favorite part of the project,” said junior Annie Swain. The writing, rhetoric and technical communication and communication studies double major worked with the Mennonite population, documenting their reenactment of life in the 1860s.

After the students worked through the fall semester to create the exhibits, they held a gathering to showcase their final products on December 2, 2014 at the Massanutten Regional Library in downtown Harrisonburg. The students showcased the five exhibits, which included the urban renewal of Harrisonburg, a cookbook from 1855, the history and life of the Valley’s Mennonite population, the origins and stories of refugees seeking asylum in the Valley and the displacement of people who lived in the area now known as the Shenandoah National Park.

Although, the digital rhetoric class only lasted for one semester, the Shenandoah Living Archive planned to continue for years.

“The website not only included information about the exhibits, but also interactive presentations that made this project stand out from other archival work,” McCarthy said.

Swain enjoyed the project so much that she continued her work as an intern during the spring semester.

“I loved working on this project and I was familiar with how it was set up,” Swain said. “I thought it would be cool to continue on with it and fulfill my major’s internship requirement.”

The internship continued to be offered in upcoming semesters and students continued to help with the digital exhibits.

“I can’t wait to see where this goes in the coming years. I am very impressed by the work the students are doing and I am excited to see what happens with the project,” McCarthy said.

The JMU collaborative project, Shenandoah Living Archive, worked to preserve the stories of the Valley and its people through an online presence, yet, the underlying motive of the project was to create a sense of community.

WORDS Hannah Adams
PHOTO Courtesy of James Chung and Alexa Senio
DESIGN Leah Jacobs
FLYING HIGH WITH THETA

KAPPA ALPHA THETA EARN SORORITY CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

Momentum was an easy thing to lose. Some gained it only to crash, while others would work to gain it and eventually achieve their goal. Besides these two groups of people, there were those who moved forward perpetually, never taking a step in the backwards direction. Kappa Alpha Theta channeled their momentum into positive forward movement, culminating in the Chapter of the Year award at JMU's Fraternity and Sorority Life Excellence Awards ceremony.

"It was a long time coming," said Kappa Alpha Theta President Chelsea Whitman. The senior hospitality management major worked to ensure that the sorority kept moving forward. "We always try to improve every single year."

Since the inception of JMU's Eta Rho chapter in 2007, they have left an indelible mark on Harrisonburg. Their work was beneficial not only to the JMU community, but also the city of Harrisonburg as a whole. Their philanthropy, Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA, owed the existence of its Harrisonburg chapter to the ladies of Theta.

CASA, as the philanthropy organization of Kappa Alpha Theta for over 25 years, worked to represent abused and neglected children in courts. Through the Eta Rho chapter, CASA welcomed a Harrisonburg branch, which ensured that judges had sufficient information to remove children from harmful environments.

"We know that our funds go to resources to help them," Whitman said.

In addition to their work, Theta worked to build their image on campus by putting together Relay for Life teams, attending basketball games and supporting other organizations events.

"There are more than 200 of us," Whitman said. "We all come from different backgrounds; we all bring something different."

The accomplishments of Theta did not go unrecognized. Their award-winning year was the culmination of hard work the ladies gave to aid not only JMU, but also the surrounding community. After working to build their image, they were recognized for their work and did not look back. As Kappa Alpha Theta received the award, the chapter began to set standards for the rest of JMU Greek life.

WORDS Gregory Wilson
PHOTO Jillian Wright and JMU Technology and Design
DESIGN Leah Jacobs
Sisters of the Eta Rho chapter hold their award proudly as they win chapter of the year. Fraternity and Sorority Excellence Awards took place in the beginning of the spring semester.

Junior Chelsea Whitman holds the award. Theta was chosen out of 13 chapters.

Junior chapter president Sydney Rose poses for a photo. Rose was an Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts major.
THE BLUESTONE STAFF

FIRST ROW Danielle Lemon, Breanna Young, Megan Rameka, Leah Jacobs. SECOND ROW Hannah Adams, Jillian Wright, Kendal Brown, Jacqueline Garcia, Rachel Crowe. THIRD ROW Alexandra Rathjeus, Michelle Ong, Selena St Andre, Alexa Palmer, China Boyton.

NOT PICTURED

WRITERS Julia Lewis, Madeline Holden, Lanieke Bowerpate, Ashley Curtis, Kathryn Miller, Emily Glisson, Alyse Hinchburn, Erin Flynn, Gregory Wilson, Matthew Sackett, Timothy Mitchell, Dominick McKay, Courtney Ambrose.


DESIGNERS

FIRST ROW: Alexandra Rabjana, Breanna Young, Jacqueline Gercke, Leah Jacobs. SECOND ROW: Alexis Painter, Megan Rzepka, China Boyne.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

FIRST ROW: Hannah Adams, Breanna Young, Danielle Lever, Abi Mac Wright. SECOND ROW: Selena St Andre, Alexis Painter, Kendal Brown.

WRITERS

FIRST ROW: Michelle Criqui, Hannah Adams.
It is strange to think that "yearbook season" is almost over. The yearbook is like the weird lovechild of six girls, and that doesn't even sound weird to me. It's like it's my baby, and I am almost certain that once I am not obligated to spend 25+ hours a week trapped within the confines of these mustard-colored walls, I will experience some serious postpartum yearbook blues.

I'm so grateful for this experience. It has been a rollercoaster, to say the very least. We started with an idea that grew into a plan and blossomed into the book you are holding right now. I am so proud of the editorial board and staff for all of their hard work. We wouldn't have been able to do it without you.

Beth, thank you for being my second-in-command and one of my best friends. You have been a priceless asset to my sanity this year. Really - we had some crazy moments and I'm not sure I would have survived without you keeping my feet on the ground. You are an incredibly talented writer, editor and designer, and I know your work ethic will take you far in life. You rock, don't ever change.

Paige, thank you for knowing everything about sports. For real, girl, our athletics section would be a total joke without your extensive knowledge of collegiate sports. Truthfully, I still don't really know how to write sports stories. You're an amazing editor and I know that you will take everything you have learned this year to make next year's book "borderline a little cray-cray."

Sarah, thank you for being such a great friend over the years. From Gifford Hall to Roop G6 you have been a constant in my life and I'm glad we've grown so close. I mean we're practically pinned at this point, right? You're the copy-editing queen and I know you'll bring those skills to the wild and crazy world of broadcast journalism to become the next Christiane Amanpour. Bet on it!

Breana (A.K.A. Breyonce), I don't know how I would have made it through deadline weekends without your quick wit and late night dance lessons. I really love that you can't stop, won't stop moving. It's almost like you've got this music in your mind saying, "It's gonna be all right." Taylor Swift jokes aside, you are such a great designer and photographer. There is no doubt in my mind that you will end up in L.A., living the dream.

Rebekah, thank you for taking care of all of The Bluestone's social media and marketing. Your organization and dedication have helped to make this whole process so much easier. Thank you for coming in on deadline weekends and helping us out. I'm so glad we were able to work together this year.

Thank you to our adviser, Dr. Mark Rankin. On behalf of all of the editors, I would like to thank you for all of your assistance between our deadlines. You have been an asset to The Bluestone and we really appreciate your dedication and support.

Thank you to the wonderful writers, designers and photographers who contributed to our book. I am unbelievably proud of all of the work you have accomplished. Without your hard work and commitment to learning your craft, we would have a book full of blank pages.

To my mom and dad, I am not sure I have enough space to adequately thank you, but I will try. Thank you for being the best parents a girl could ask for. Thank you for dealing with my many freak-outs and talking me down from my unnecessary worries. Thank you for funding my Starbucks addiction during deadline weekends with extra gift cards. Finally, thank you for supporting my crazy journalism dreams. I'm sure most parents would have a heart attack if their child said they wanted to get a degree in print journalism, but you two have stood by me through my whole college career. Best parents in the whole world!

Thank you to my all of my friends and my fabulous roommates, Angela, Julia, Rochelle and Jenn, for helping me make countless memories throughout the years. They say college will be the best four years of your life and that the friends you make will be your friends forever. I think I can say pretty safely that this is true.

Working on this book has been an incredible privilege. We've had the opportunity to document and share the stories of the people, events and organizations that make JMU the amazing institution that we all know and love.

I hope you enjoy it, JMU. It's been one heck of a ride.
“Someday somebody’s gonna make you want to turn around and say goodbye. Until then, baby, are you gonna let them hold you down and make you cry?” I hope not, because my fellow editors are pretty awesome. And so is Wilson Phillips. And “Bridesmaids.”

This is my second year of being a Bluestone editor, and while I’ve learned a lot, there’s still a lot I don’t know. Like how to not be awkward when calling people for pictures. And while I can’t count the number of sports stories I’ve had to write, I still don’t understand sports. Thank God for Paige.

Abby, I’m so glad we got as close as we did working together on this amazing publication. I love sharing clothes and necklaces and makeup with you, hanging out in Hunters Ridge on the weekends and of course, listening to (and singing loudly along with) Pitch Perfect Pandora in the office when we probably should have been working.

Paige, I remember working with you as a writer last year and it’s been so much more fun working with you as an editor! You’ve learned so much in such a short amount of time, and I can’t wait to see what you come up with on the editorial board next year as well. Your sports knowledge is much appreciated from all of us.

Sarah, I literally can’t stop laughing right now thinking of your “Bridesmaids” dance. I’m jealous of your skills. We had a lot of fun during deadline weekend watching music videos and discussing Taylor Swift’s long list of ex-lovers who think she’s insane!

Breana, I’ll admit, I was so intimidated by you at first! I’ve never met someone more sure of herself than you, and I’m proud to call you my friend. I love your affinity for selfies (where I’m always somehow featured in the background) and how much fun you are to be around. Your happiness and creativity is contagious, and I love you for it.

Rebekah, I still can’t believe you live right across from me and I never actually knew it. I look forward to seeing what you do with all of your creativity after you leave JMU. You have so much enthusiasm for life, and I hope you go far with it.

You guys are awesome, and we had a blast this year having dance parties at midnight during deadline weekends and attempting to rap along with Pandora. And now that my careers at both The Bluestone and JMU are over, I know I’ll take both with me wherever I end up. Thanks to my fellow editors for dealing with my crazy, stressed deadline moments and for going on this wonderful journey with me! Thanks to my SMAD professors for teaching me everything I needed to know about working on a publication. I can’t even count the number of times I’ve used the phrases “Well, Grundmann said this is how to do it,” or “In class the other day, Soensken talked about how you do it this way.”

Thanks to my wonderful mother, whom I honestly can’t thank enough for everything she’s done. Thanks to my amazing boyfriend, Juan, who always listened to me rant about everything. Thanks (again) to Haley, Colleen and Claire from last year’s editorial staff, for continuing to be my best friends and always having good advice for me. #bluestonebabes2014

I’ll miss my desk in the office. I hope next year’s staff treats it well. If not, I guess I’ll have to shake shake shake shake shake, shake it off.
Okay, so I don't know how I'm going to get through this letter without shedding a tear, but I'll give it a go. As a member of this year's editorial board, I've been able to experience so much. I'm so thankful for the skills and close friends that I've gained. I don't know where I would have been able to handle deadline weekends without dance breaks, cookie skillet 90's and early 2000s playlists and of course and singing 'Hold On' by Wilson Phillips at 1 a.m. These are the memories that I will take with me when I graduate next year and leave the best place on earth: JMU (Roof G6 included).

Abby or Abigail Tall, thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to be managing editor of this yearbook. You've taught me so much about editing and InDesign, and I hope next year's edition will be half as good as this year's. You're such a skilled editor-in-chief and you have the creativity and poise to take you so far in this industry. I am forever grateful that I've gained you as a friend and role model.

P.S. Sorry my passive-aggressive self threw a pen at you, but I don't know if I'll ever understand your love for Ed Sheeran.

Beth, oh Beth, your wit and sass as an editor inspires me to be better. I know how to handle our writers well because I learned from the best. You've known me the longest and you understand my "nerdiness" and love for yearbook. Thank you for reminding me to wear my glasses while on the computer by throwing things at me and helping me restructure sentences after I've read numerous sports stories. I'm so happy you got your dream job already as an editor for a wedding magazine! You're going to go so far. I can't wait to read your articles in The Knot when I'm planning my wedding in the far future with man who decides he can actually spend more than ten minutes with me.

Sarah, thank you for understanding my sarcasm and knowing how to use it against me. I'm glad you'll get on the ground with me during deadline weekends to work out and burn off that nervous energy. You're so quirky, but it makes you so much fun to hang around. Your personality will go far on television, and I can't wait to watch you. I would say more things about our friendship, but it maybe a little weird for the reader. You may have destroyed Taylor Swift for me with your screaming cover songs, but you're a good copy editor, so I guess that makes up for it.

Breana, Breana Del Rey or Breyonce, thank goodness for your amazing design skills and lessons on how to twerk. You have enriched my life this year, and I love how honest you are about everything and everyone. I can't wait to see how you develop more into an artist of your passion. You're always willing to help me with InDesign, Photoshop and other design tools. Trust me, I'm very appreciative.

Rebekah, thank you so much for running the social media accounts this year! You did a great job, and I can't wait to see what you do after school as well. I'm glad I was able to get to know you this year.

Overall feeling this year: If I see these words: unique, interesting, good, bad, important, special or passion ever again in a sports article, I may add some red to the ugly yellow walls in our office.

However, these yellow walls and our now shared hatred of Oxford commas have grown on me. Good thing, I'll be here for another year. I'm the last one to graduate out of this editorial board, but in a way, it's a blessing because I've been able to learn so much. I only hope that I can carry on the charisma and creativity of this board to next year's. Thank you readers for enjoying this yearbook and thank you editorial board for everything and more. So for my last words, I can only quote Wilson Phillips.

"Things'll go your way, if you hold on for one more day."

Love you all!
When I describe what working for the yearbook is like, most people ask, “Why would you willingly sit in an office for more than 30 hours on the weekend?” Well, if they worked with the hilarious and hardworking people that I do, they would understand.

Abby, you’ve been with me since the beginning. I’m so glad Gifford Hall brought us together freshman year. Now we’re old and getting ready to graduate. It’s crazy how time flies. I’ve never met anyone who loves Ed Sheeran as much as you do and I can’t help but wonder who I’m supposed to eat lunch with after we graduate. You’ve worked so hard on this yearbook and I know all of it is going to pay off! You can Bet On It.

Beth, I’ll miss jumping out to Wilson Phillips with you (and yes, I’m doing the Bridesmaids dance while writing this). You tell it like it is and I could always count on you to save the day with an O’Neill’s cookie skillet when times got tough. Congratulations on graduation, you’re going to do great things at your first job!

Paige, your Gloe playlists and random dance breaks actually made me look forward to deadline weekends. You have a good head on your shoulders and I know you’re going to do so well as editor-in-chief next year. Mainly because you’re the only one who understands the printer when it decides it doesn’t want to work. I can’t wait to see the great things you’ll do!

Breana, deadline weekends wouldn’t have been the same without your one-liners and “life lessons.” I guess I can accept the fact that you don’t like Taylor Swift and I’m excited to try my first In-N-Out burger with you when we go to California. Stay fierce, Beyonce.

Rebekah, thanks for all of your hard work this year. I’m glad someone else in the office appreciates Nick Jonas as much as I do. Good luck with everything you do!

It’s the little things that will remind me of The Bluestone years from now. Things like the color yellow, “Hold On” by Wilson Phillips and Zac Efron. I’m grateful for this opportunity because it brought me closer to such an awesome group of people who have helped me grow as a person.

We’ve put so much time, work and cookie skillets into making this yearbook. I want to say thank you to the rest of the editorial board, writers, designers and photographers for making it happen. We certainly wouldn’t have been able to do any of this without you.

Sarah, my little awkward wallaby, thank you for being much prettier than Taylor Swift and liking screamo music.

This year has been better than I ever expected. I am proud of all my Illuminati Family in my fraternity, Kappa Pi. The group me kept me alive during deadline weekends. You all inspire me and I had you in mind whenever I designed anything. Hopefully I met all of your expectations. Thank you to my LSA familia, for always being there and growing with me through my college years. Thanks to my chocolate drop, for always bringing me food and snacks to me during deadline.

When I describe what working for the yearbook is like, I never knew how much I hated Taylor Swift until I joined The Bluestone, I also never realized how much work and effort went into writing the articles that were placed into the yearbook. Not only do our writers just write the stories, our genius editorial board (excluding me, I focus on the designs obviously) meticulously scrutinize every source, word and punctuation.

By the way, there are two different commas! Did anyone else know that? Because I was really shocked; they look the same, but the way they’re used is different or something. I don’t really remember, I wasn’t really paying attention when they explained it to me.

Regardless, their knowledge of grammar and spelling will far surpass what I will ever dream to Google. Even this letter will be torn to pieces. I am a one trick pony and I envy their writing talents.

This year has been better than I ever expected, I am proud to say I have met these young professional women and that they have become my coworkers and friends. I want to thank them for dealing with my crudeness, ridiculous outfits and the millions of selfies I have taken on the office computer.

Rebekah, I want to thank you for your undying love for the Jonas Brothers. #KeepingTheDreamAlive. You are the calm to our crazy.

Paige, thank you for being theRailroad lantern and letting me provoke you so I can see your angry side. It is very entertaining.

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Sarah, my little awkward wallaby, thank you for being much prettier than Taylor Swift and liking screamo music.
I cannot believe these past four years are about to be over in 100 days. Where did the years go? Meeting new friends that I would keep forever, ordering Campus Cookies, taking pictures with the Duke Dog mascot, gaining freshman 15 from E-Hall, hiking Old Rag, finding out I had a new obsession for the roses and redbud trees on campus, gaining knowledge about the world through this publication, attending Relay for Life, going to countless football and basketball games and eating dozens of cookie skillets are all highlights from my four years at JMU. Yet, one of my favorite highlights at JMU was being a member of The Bluestone editorial board.

Being a part of The Bluestone has been amazing! After being a staff member of my high school’s yearbook, I was interested in working on JMU’s book. I joined my junior year as a writer. I wanted to be part of the editorial board my senior year, so I became the multimedia editor. I ran the social media sites and helped out with advertising the book. I have learned so much through this position.

Now it’s time to pretend I’m a singer and write my thanks in the CD booklet. Thank you Mom and Dad for paying the big bucks for me to attend this lovely school. Thank you for loving me so much!

Shadow, I’m sorry I wasn’t home as much to give you belly rubs, but you were always so excited to see me when I came home!

Thank you to my lovely grandparents for always loving me and encouraging me: Gran & Granddad and Mama & Granddaddly.

Thank you to all the new friends I met at JMU. I have loved getting to know you all and making so many new memories together. Laura, Amelia and Amanda, I’m thankful for our two years living together and getting to know you all so well! We have had so many great times together!

Thank you Abby, Breana, Sarah, Paige, and Beth for a great year! Abby, you were a terrific editor-in-chief and were so passionate about our publication. Breana, you knew how to make us laugh out loud. Thank you for the carefree and lovable attitude you brought to the yearbook room. Sarah, you were hysterical. You knew how to bring the fun to the deadline weekends. Paige, thank you for being so sweet and positive. I know you’ll go far in life! Beth, you were amazing! You made us all love deadline weekends with your funny comments and your love for Disney. Thank you for always being there for us. Hannah, thank you so much for helping me out with social media! You were terrific! I know you’ll go far in life as well. Love you all! To the next editorial board, you have some pretty big shoes to fill!

The past two years being on the staff and the last year on the editorial board have been a highlight of my time at JMU. I hope everyone enjoys the book!
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JMU has a beautiful view of the Shenandoah Valley from all over campus. JMU was frequently recognized as one of the best universities in the country, according to www.jmu.edu.
JMU's campus is filled with natural wildlife. The Edith J. Carrier Arboretum, which was located on East Campus, featured many different species of plants.

PHOTO | JMU Marketing Photography Department
Students enjoyed relaxing on the Festival Lawn during nice days. The lawn played host to many events, such as Madipalooza in the spring.

PHOTO | JMU Marketing Photography Department
Production

The 2015 Bluestone, volume 106, was created by a student staff with help from our publishers, Balfour Publishing Company and Taylor Publishing, located in Texas. The editors used Macintosh versions of Adobe Creative Suite 6 and Microsoft Word 2008 to create all 336 pages, which covered events from March 2014 to March 2015. Sarah Lockwood, Tami and Scott Stalcup served as the publishing representatives and Angela Holt served as the account executive.

Cover & Endsheets

The Bluestone held a contest for the yearbook cover design and Leah Jacobs’ design was chosen to be featured on the 2015 Bluestone. The design was then edited by our design editor, Breana Quintero. The cover has a soft touch lamination and embossing on some of the triangles, which creates the pillowing effect and adds dimension. The three colors used on the cover can also be found throughout the entire book.

Fonts & Typography

The Bluestone used the Maximo and Momento font families. Copy is 8-point with 10-point leading and captions are 6-point with 7.2-point leading.

Colors

Four colors were used throughout The Bluestone:
- Gray: C=0 M=10 Y=0 K=60
- teal: C=100 M=40 Y=40 K=0
- Purple: C=60 M=100 Y=0 K=0
- Green: C=20 M=0 Y=40 K=0

Photography

Unless otherwise noted, the staff took all photographs featured in the yearbook. Portraits in the academics section were taken by Prestige Portraits.

Editorial

Editorial content does not necessarily reflect the views of the university. The editor-in-chief accepts responsibility for all content in the yearbook.

Contact

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THANKS

Our Families
- The Short Family
- The Wertz Family
- The Lobuts Family
- The Callaway Family
- The Quintero Family
- The Pitts Family

Balfour Publishing Company
- Tami Stalcup
- Scott Stalcup
- Sarah Lockwood
- Angela Holt
- Technical Support

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- Procurement Services
- Recycling Staff
- Roop Hall Housekeeping
- Office of the Student Activities and Involvement
- University Marketing
- University Program Board
- UREC
A student looks up for direction from the director as he plays music on his trumpet. Students in the school of music could take classes in their instrument sections, music education, musicology, music industry, theory or composition.

PHOTO | JMU Marketing Photography Department

The crowd cheers as the football flies across the stadium. Students showed their support for breast cancer awareness during JMU's annual "Pink Out" football game.
A student dances along with her First Year Orientation Guide (FROG) in the Convocation Center during Freshman Orientation week in late August. Each year, the FROGs perform a special, choreographed dance for the freshman class.
An art student works on a piece in the studio. According to JMU.edu, there were over 600 art, design and art history majors studying at JMU.

PHOTO | JMU Marketing Photography Department

JMU students, alumni, staff and faculty would come together to show their support for the JMU football team. Students often painted their bodies for home games to show school spirit.
President John Alger and his family make a special
appearance at the Homecoming game. The family often
welcomed honored guests at events.

JMU holds many special events. Students, faculty, and
staff had to use the event management website to reserve
event space around campus.
JMU’s Quad houses dorms, academic buildings and offices. When the weather was nice, students could be found outside, playing frisbee or sunbathing on The Quad.

PHOTO | JMU Marketing Photography Department
IN MEMORIAM

Students

Mary J. Noblitt
Carlos Manuel Ortiz Jr
Harry McLaurin Alles
Roberto Antonio Medina
Ryan Michael Saba
Gabrielle Emily Sanda
Melissa D. Smith
Megan Elaine Gruneisen
Edward Branch Crockett
Michael Keith Boyles

Sarah Elizabeth Sprague
Nirvikar Immanuel Ghose
Richard Roger Provencher
Jessica Lakasha Williams
Randall Sawyer Hart
Louise E. Steadman
Deborah Ann Mach
Lindsay Elaine Kavka
Diane Marie Babral

Faculty

Norlyn L. Bodkin
Charles Cunningham
Deborah Michelle Hite
Diane Marie Babral
Dennis Owen Burnett
Nola Susan Smith