



The Breeze

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Vol. 92, No. 43
Thursday, March 20, 2014

'Winning over everything'

Women's basketball heads to the big dance, defeats Delaware 70-45 for CAA title



CATHY KUSHNER / JMU ATHLETICS

JMU women's basketball celebrated its win and seventh CAA title last Sunday. The Dukes are now headed to College Station, Texas, to play No. 6 Gonzaga.

By **WAYNE EPPS JR.**
The Breeze

Every team begins a new season with goals and dreams. And usually the list includes a championship — that's the big prize.

Last weekend, women's basketball trounced through the Colonial Athletic Association tournament, much like it did through regular season conference play, en route to its seventh CAA title. The Dukes had about 24 hours to celebrate after capturing the conference title on Sunday, topped with another snow day.

By Monday night, it was time to get back to work, as the Dukes found out where they would be headed to the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament with their

automatic bid, and who they'd be up against.

ESPN women's basketball bracketologist Charlie Creme projected JMU (28-5) as a No. 9 seed, traveling to play in Knoxville, Tenn. Head Coach Kenny Brooks thought JMU would be seeded anywhere between seven and 10. Both predictions were wrong.

As the team gathered with friends, family and fans at the Convocation Center for an NCAA selection show watch party Monday, JMU found out it would be a No. 11 seed, headed to College Station, Texas to play No. 6 Gonzaga University on Texas A&M University's campus, Sunday at 5:30 p.m.

Reed Arena at Texas A&M is roughly 1,300 miles from JMU. There are several other closer locations that the Dukes could've drawn, including two in North Carolina and one in

Maryland.

Brooks admitted he is a little disappointed that JMU is playing so far away, limiting the opportunities for fans to travel.

"I would love to be closer to home so JMU Nation could come to watch us," Brooks said. "I think that would be just a treat for them."

Another element that caused surprise was the fact that the Dukes are pitted against another mid-major school. Gonzaga (29-4) and JMU are two of the top mid-majors in the country this year, and can be found at the top of the Mid-Major Top 25 poll, with the Bulldogs finishing the season in first place and the Dukes in third.

This matchup guarantees that a top

see **BASKETBALL**, page B6

Canceled class creates headaches

After five snow days professors have to rearrange schedules

By **IJ CHAN AND WILLIAM MASON**
The Breeze

This Monday marked the fifth day JMU canceled classes due to snow. While many students have enjoyed the sporadic breaks, many professors have found staying up to date on their schedules to be a nightmare.

Assistant geography professor Jonathan Walker teaches a M/W/F general education class at 8 a.m., which means that he has missed the maximum amount of classes possible from both delays and closures. While the university has granted makeup days for these cancellations, they fall on Saturdays, a day Walker feels is not likely to attract students.

"I teach an 8 a.m. class, who wants to come in at 8 a.m. on a Saturday?" Walker said.

According to Walker the in-class time he actually gets with students is also disrupted by the snow days because he is forced to modify his teaching style.

"Students can't get that enriching, off-the-basics discussion that can really be the fruitful parts of taking a course," Walker said. "I feel I had to just get through things instead of having the interaction which makes my class different."

Walker also thinks that the lack of class time unfairly raises the grades of his students because he has been forced to teach the class as a prep class, meaning students' exam scores are inflated.

Walker said the days off are also time lost because to many students and professors as soon as the Madison Alerts comes in, it means "I can sleep in." This disrupts the organization of the days of professors and students meaning less work is done, causing snow days to be not days off, but rather days lost.

Another person who feels that precious time is lost during snow days is integrated science and technology assistant professor Stephanie Stockwell.

"I have a small baby at home so if I'm home it's hard to juggle all the work I should be doing that day with having an 8-month-old who doesn't understand there's certain things I

see **SNOW**, page A4

New classrooms will be EPIC

Student Success Center spaces create new dynamic for faculty and students

By **CAITLIN TRIMBLE**
The Breeze

The experience of being trapped in a large lecture hall in a tiny desk is something most JMU student have become familiar with. Enhancing Pedagogy through Innovative Classrooms, also known as EPIC, is a campus-wide initiative that could heavily influence the future design of classrooms not just for JMU, but for universities nationwide.

It's a more dynamic and flexible approach to classroom design that will be piloted during the fall in the new Student Success Center.

The eight classrooms will feature floor-to-ceiling, writeable dry-erase boards, multiple projectors — which can be operated individually or together — movable seating arrangements and opportunities for a more fluid and adaptable classroom environment.

Psychology professor Kenn Barron says that the

"sage on a stage" approach, large lectures in tight, formal rows and columns, is less effective than a "guide on the side" style of teaching where students drive discussion and learning without relying completely on the instructor.

Cara Meixner an assistant professor of graduate psychology and assistant director of Center for Faculty Innovation said that professors from

see **EPIC**, page A4

From the easel to your door

New Community Supported Arts program funds local artists



JAMES CHUNG / THE BREEZE

Valerie Smith and Jon Henry collaborated on the CSArts program, which sells memberships for \$425, giving shareholders an original piece of art every month.

By **LAUREN HUNT**
The Breeze

With a wonderful view of the lush, rolling Appalachian Mountains, and its beautiful, rural landscapes, Harrisonburg is chock-full of inspiration for artists.

And now, community members have the chance to own a piece of this art haven.

The Old Furnace Artist Residency (OFAR) and Larkin Arts have partnered to bring affordable, original art to the Harrisonburg and Rockingham community through a new program called Community Supported Arts (CSArts).

The idea for the structure of the program was taken from community-supported agriculture models. With this model, farmers sell a certain number of shares to

members of the community and are then required to give shareholders a predetermined amount of seasonal produce each week.

"I was familiar with the community-supported agriculture models, as many of my friends were either buyers or producers for them. But recently, I had noticed the start of CSArts programs," Jon Henry, a student in the master's of fine arts program at JMU and the founder of OFAR, said. "There are CSArts models in closer places like Charlottesville and Berryville, Va. I feel like CSArts just makes sense for Harrisonburg because it has such a deep farming and art history."

The CSArts program will work the same way, with the exception

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Softball team bonds throughout two weeks of play in Hawaii.

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Serving James Madison University Since 1922
61 Anthony-Seeger Hall, MSC 6805
James Madison University
Harrisonburg, Va. 22807
PHONE: 540-568-6127
FAX: 540-568-6736

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
SEAN CASSIDY
breezeditor@gmail.com

MANAGING EDITOR
ANNE ELSEA
breezpress@gmail.com

NEWS DESK
breezenews@gmail.com

LIFE DESK
breezarts@gmail.com

SPORTS DESK
breezesports@gmail.com

OPINION DESK
breezepinion@gmail.com

COPY DESK
breezecopy@gmail.com

PHOTO
breezephotography@gmail.com

VIDEO
breezevideo@gmail.com

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT
540-568-6127

ADS MANAGER
Ethan Miller

ASST. ADS MANAGER
Will Bungarden

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Zack Owen

ASST. CREATIVE DIRECTOR
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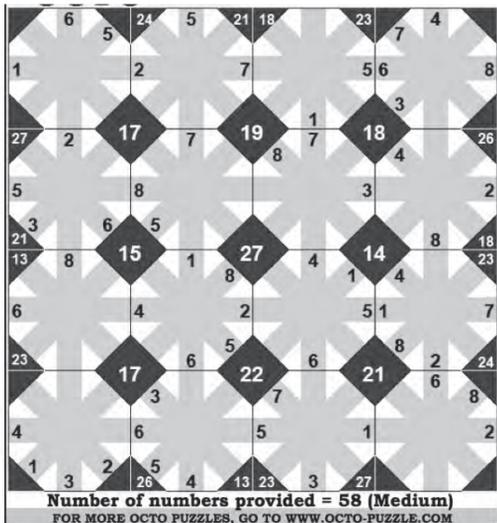
DO YOU TWEET WITTY THINGS?
ARE YOU ALL THE RAGE?
Then speak up!

Let us know what you're thinking by tweeting us back at @TheBreezeJMU and posting on our Facebook page!

Instructions

The goal of an OCTO puzzle is to place the numbers 1 to 8 in each of the octagons without repeating a number in any octagon, row, column or diagonal. Good luck!

The OCTO puzzle



Number of numbers provided = 58 (Medium)
FOR MORE OCTO PUZZLES, GO TO WWW.OCTO-PUZZLE.COM

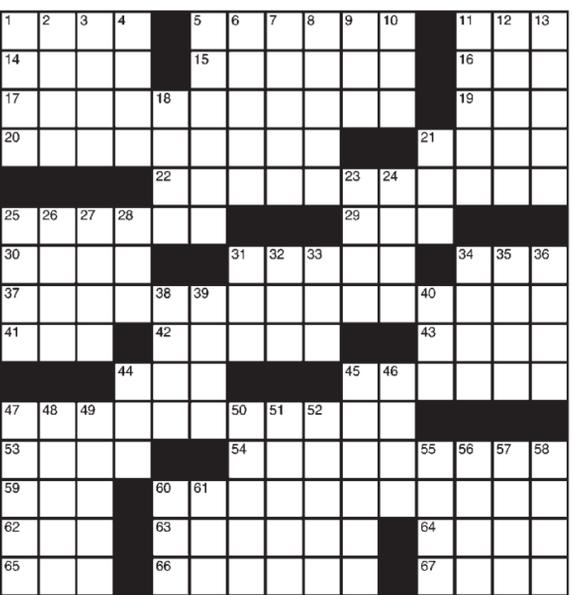
DOUG JOHNSON / OCTO-PUZZLE.COM

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Set count
 - 5 Ally of Sun
 - 11 Relocation aid
 - 14 Unrestrainedly
 - 15 Divulges
 - 16 As per
 - 17 Liner with Intel inside?
 - 19 One may be flipped
 - 20 When many night visions occur?
 - 21 Revealing garb
 - 22 Nylon notable?
 - 25 Bag
 - 29 High mountain
 - 30 "Yikes!"
 - 31 Lock
 - 34 "Gerontion" poet's monogram
 - 37 Get one's kicks in a painful way?
 - 41 Rush participant's prize
 - 42 Fields
 - 43 Give for a while
 - 44 Music-licensing org.
 - 45 Meshes
 - 47 Principal plant?
 - 53 Playground bouncer
 - 54 Like some important letters
 - 59 Pay stub?
 - 60 Surprise the neighborhood?
 - 62 Take home
 - 63 University of Minnesota mascot Goldy
 - 64 Unsigned, briefly
 - 65 Private
 - 66 Professorial duds
 - 67 Numerous

- DOWN**
- 1 Scrape
 - 2 Mideast VIP
 - 3 sci
 - 4 Take from the top
 - 5 Dress
 - 6 '20s-'30s skating gold medalist
 - 7 Personal answer



By Marti DuGuay-Carpenter

Thursday's puzzle solved



- 8 "My Name Is Lev": Chaim Potok novel
- 9 "can't"
- 10 57-Down measure
- 11 Bona fide
- 12 Dress style
- 13 Floor
- 18 Pool lead-in
- 21 Tourist's guide
- 23 Secure at the dock
- 24 Otherwise
- 25 Highest power?
- 26 Petri dish filler
- 27 Vacation destination
- 28 Chemical suffix
- 31 Digital temperature gauge?
- 32 Genetic messenger
- 33 Unexpected fictional visitors
- 34 You, to a Friend
- 35 Function in 39-Down
- 36 Scraps
- 38 "Said": Neil Diamond hit
- 39 It involves angles, for short
- 40 35mm camera option
- 44 Marathon unit: Abbr.
- 45 Trains may stop at them
- 46 Smooth-talking
- 47 Chophouse choice
- 48 Tin Man actor
- 49 Make merry
- 50 Breadth
- 51 "Wag the Dog" actress
- 52 Ticked
- 55 Hoax
- 56 New York college with a mascot named Killian
- 57 Coll. major
- 58 Fashion letters
- 60 York, for one: Abbr.
- 61 Do-it-yourselfer's concern

WORLD NEWS

Israel attacks Syrian bases after four wounded

McClatchy Foreign Staff

JERUSALEM — Israeli aircraft struck Syrian army positions early Wednesday after an explosion wounded four Israeli soldiers on the Golan Heights frontier, the military said, in the most serious flare-up of violence there since the start of Syria's 3-year-old civil war.

A Syrian army announcement said one person was killed and seven wounded in the Israeli air attacks on three sites on the outskirts of the city of Quneitra, near Israeli lines on the Golan Heights.

Israel captured the strategic plateau from Syria in the 1967 Middle East War. After decades of calm along the frontier, the fighting in Syria occasionally has spilled over the cease-fire line, with shells and small arms fire hitting the Israeli-held Golan, sometimes drawing Israeli artillery or anti-tank rockets in response.

On Tuesday, an explosive device detonated near an Israeli patrol along the frontier near the Druze village of Majdal Shams in the Israeli-held Golan, wounding four soldiers, one seriously.

The Israeli army said it initially responded with artillery fire at Syrian military positions.

Early Wednesday, Israeli aircraft targeted "several Syrian army positions which aided and abetted the attack," including a training facility, military headquarters and artillery batteries, an Israeli army statement said.

Ukraine orders troops to leave Crimea, Russia bribes soldiers

McClatchy Foreign Staff

KIEV, Ukraine — A pair of Russian generals have been visiting Ukrainian military bases in Crimea and offering soldiers there fat pay and pension packages if they join the Russian army before a Friday deadline, when Russia has said its patience with a Ukrainian presence in the Black Sea peninsula will run out.

A Ukrainian captain who was among the officers who met with them at a base in Perevalne, Crimea, said in a phone interview that at each base the generals make a very simple point: The Russian military would love to welcome Ukrainian troops into its ranks.

The possibility is lost on no one, the captain said, that the alternative is a grim one: Russia has said that on Friday Ukrainian soldiers will be classified as bandits and terrorists and hunted by the vastly superior Russian military now on the peninsula. On Tuesday a Ukrainian soldier was killed and an officer injured when Russian troops and local paramilitaries stormed a base in Simferopol. On Wednesday, pro-Russian forces took control of the Ukrainian naval headquarters and raised the Russian flag. The Ukrainian commander was arrested and troops were left to wander off on their own.

The captain said he expects many of his compatriots to accept the Russian offer, especially those who consider Crimea home.

"The pay is five times that offered by Ukraine," he said. "The pensions are five times better, and will be offered 20 years sooner. We are told we would serve on the same military base. Defend the same soil, the homeland of many at these bases. Families living quite nearby the bases will be able to remain in their same homes."

The tale he tells matches Ukrainian news reports, though there is no government confirmation, from either Russia or Ukraine. Word of the Russian effort to woo Ukraine's soldiers in Crimea came one day after Russian President Vladimir Putin signed treaties with Crimean leaders to annex the peninsula

Search for Malaysian flight continues

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The U.S. military pulled its warship out of the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 Monday and will rely instead on sophisticated submarine-hunting aircraft, a sign of just how complex the international search for the missing Boeing 777 has become in its second week.

At least 26 nations have deployed ships, aircraft and satellites in one of the largest international coalitions ever mustered in a search and rescue operation.

Search teams are concentrating on wide bands in both the northern and southern hemispheres west of Malaysia, crossing the territories of a dozen Asian nations as well as the sparsely traveled waters of the southern Indian Ocean.

U.S. authorities have described the southern corridor as the most promising zone, though authorities have not ruled out any area, nor any of several scenarios involving foul play, such as hijacking.

Compiled from McClatchy-Tribune wire services

NATIONAL NEWS

For gamblers, March is sheer madness

Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — March Madness might be the Super Bowl of sports betting.

By some measures, the NCAA men's basketball tournament is even bigger than the football game that's set the standard for big wagers, precision oddsmaking and packed Las Vegas sports books.

It's difficult to show the exact influence of March Madness — the Final Four, in particular — on the gambling world. That's because the event is spread over a month, and most betting statistics don't separate professional and collegiate basketball.

But experts say the wagers made in Nevada on March Madness probably will be in the vicinity of the record \$119 million bet in the state this year on the Super Bowl. And they are certain that the number of bets placed on the tournament far surpasses that for the football game.

Any way the numbers are sliced, the Final

Four next month in Arlington, Texas, is sure to produce winners and losers beyond those just on the court.

"March Madness is very, very big for us here in Nevada," said Jimmy Vaccaro, oddsmaker for South Point Hotel, Casino and Spa in Las Vegas. "And it just keeps getting bigger."

The tricky part of the bonanza is that the NCAA wants nothing to do with it.

All sports organizations are somewhat leery of sports betting, fearful that gambling could set the stage for point shaving or throwing games. But the NCAA is particularly aggressive in touting those potential ills. "Sports wagering can be a serious crime that threatens the well-being of student-athletes and the integrity of the game," the NCAA wrote in a 2010 fact sheet on college sports gambling.

The NCAA even takes a hard line against the relatively small-dollar bracket pools popular in offices across the country.

It has cited an FBI estimate that more than \$2.5 billion is wagered illegally each year on March Madness. But an FBI spokesman in Washington told The Dallas Morning News he couldn't confirm the statistic and wasn't aware of the agency putting out such a figure in a formal way.

Toyota to pay \$1.2 billion to settle probe

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Toyota Motor Corp. has agreed to pay a \$1.2 billion fine to settle a four-year federal criminal investigation into whether it properly reported safety complaints about the sudden acceleration of its vehicles to regulators.

It is the largest penalty of its kind ever imposed on an automotive company, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said Wednesday.

In the agreement with the Department of Justice, the Japanese automaker admitted that it misled U.S. consumers by concealing and making deceptive statements about two safety issues affecting its vehicles. The case focused on reports of floor mats jamming gas pedals and sticking gas pedals.

"Toyota put sales over safety and profit over principle," said George Venizelos, assistant director of the FBI. "The disregard Toyota had for the safety of the public was outrageous. Not only did Toyota fail to recall cars with problem parts, they continued to manufacture new cars with the same parts they knew were deadly."

Obama seeks summit in Europe about Russia

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Unable to slow Russia's moves in Ukraine, President Barack Obama moved Tuesday to convene a summit of top economic powers in Europe.

Just days before he departs for a four-country swing through Europe, Obama invited the leaders of the Group of Seven nations to meet on the sidelines of a previously arranged meeting on nuclear security Monday and Tuesday in The Hague, Netherlands.

Such summits normally are worked out months in advance, and the rush underscored the stakes of the escalating standoff with Russia and President Vladimir Putin as he moved to annex Crimea.

In Poland to reassure anxious U.S. allies, Vice President Joe Biden on Tuesday denounced Russia's move as "nothing more than a land grab." He warned that Russia will face more sanctions.

Compiled from McClatchy-Tribune wire services

IN BRIEF

HARRISONBURG

School Board approves new elementary school

Harrisonburg City's School Board has decided in a 3-2 vote to forego their original plan to build a new middle school. Instead, they've decided that a new elementary school would be more beneficial, according to the *Daily News-Record*.

The new school, which is expected to open in 2017, will hold about 750 students. Fifth graders, who now attend the middle school, will be moved to the new school.

The city still plans to renovate the Thomas Harrison Middle School, which was part of its original plan.

Board member Danny Fleming said this change doesn't change their original goal, which is to provide "additional elementary school space." This change will also require Harrisonburg Public Schools to redistrict, according to Superintendent Scott Kizner.

Christmas eve shooting case in court

Delano Fitz, 28, is being charged with the murder of his girlfriend Edasha Williams' ex-boyfriend, Traman Turner, 27, of Harrisonburg, after a conflict on Christmas eve, according to the *Daily News-Record*.

A man being charged with first degree murder after killing his girlfriend's ex-boyfriend pleaded self defense in a Rockingham County General District Court on Tuesday.

Fitz's defense attorney, Aaron Graves, is questioning Williams' credibility.

Initially Williams said that when Turner came to her town home on commerce drive in Harrisonburg he had made threats to Fitz and even put in hand in his pocket suggesting he had a gun.

However, she has since reversed her testimony and said Turner was not the aggressor.

The great JACard panic

Fear and financial loss are side effects that come from losing your JACard



BLAIR ROSEN / THE BREEZE

Some students at JMU have found out that losing their JACards can be a stressful situation that can lead to panic and sometimes major financial loss.

By **LAUREN HUNT**
The Breeze

Almost every JMU student knows the panic of reaching for their JACard only to find that it's not there. Then there's the sinking feeling of not finding it anywhere and knowing there are two options: hoping it's found and returned, or buying a new one.

A JACard is a student's key for almost everything on campus: using a meal plan, access to the dorms and checking books out of the library, just to name a few.

Losing it can be an inconvenience and many have experienced the difficulty of keeping track of it.

"I've had to have my JACard replaced probably five or six times," Beth Woerner, a senior anthropology major, said. She said that students have returned it several times as well. "I try to be more careful

but I manage to lose it anyway."

Not everyone is as lucky as Woerner, though. She said that she has never had money or meals stolen from her card, but that's not true for everyone.

Peter Parker, a sophomore business major, accidentally left his JACard in D-Hall, where it was picked up and used to buy \$40 worth of pizza and \$50 worth of Campus Cookies. He filed a report with campus police and also began some of his own detective work. He requested his receipts from Campus Cookies and Tutti Gusti Pizzeria in an effort to find out who stole his JACard.

"Technically all of the food was purchased under my name, so they couldn't withhold the receipt from me," Parker said.

All of the information he was looking for was there. The female

see **CARD**, page A5

Dancing through life

Dance professor Ryan Corrison brings a strong improvisational approach to his classes

By **BIANCA MOORMAN**
contributing writer

Every Thursday, *The Breeze* will be running a Q&A with one of JMU's professors. This week we're featuring dance professor Ryan Corrison. Corrison has been dancing since elementary school. This is his first year at JMU.

What is your background in dance?

My background goes back before the University of Washington. There's a wonderful program called the Creative Dance Center out in Seattle. So when I was 7, one of my friend's moms – whose name was Anne Gilbert, came and taught a movement class for my elementary school. That was sort of the beginning – my introduction to dance. [The Creative Dance Center] has a company called a Kaleidoscope – a modern dance company for young kids. From second grade through eighth grade ... I danced with Kaleidoscope. So that was my first real introduction to dance ... I went on to do theatre and musical theatre in high school, and it wasn't until my sophomore year in college [at the University of Washington] where I took a dance class again ... that was the beginning of my second phase of my dance training. It was mainly modern and ballet as well as improvisation, contact improv and a fair amount of composition.

How would you describe modern dance?

It encompasses so much. It's not ballet, but a lot of the classes I take are ballet because it helps give me a foundations that's needed for modern. It's not jazz, but it uses a lot of the elements of jazz and physicality of jazz. It's basically a way of expressing yourself through your body and through movement. It can be very small and subtle and specific and gestural and it can be massive and very enormous movement – very physical. It can involve no music at all, it can involve a sound score of pots clanging together or it can be a beautiful classical musical score. I feel like it encompasses a lot of different moving.

How would you describe your time at JMU so far?

[My family] moved here in August. I've had a great time here. The philosophy of a Bachelor of Arts education ... I feel like we're offering a very high-level dance technical training, so people can go on here and perform professionally. But our focus is also to be a diverse, well-rounded human being ... with a focus on dance education and different ways of moving and then also just exposure to different fields besides dance. There's a holistic approach to the education here that's fantastic. The other full-time dance faculty all offer a unique skill and ability and they've really welcomed me into that. I feel like I'm in a very healthy environment for myself. The students have been phenomenal – the energy that the students have and their attention in class and their effort in class and their ability to be prepared and the work ethic they have – I've been very impressed by.



LAUREN GORDON / THE BREEZE

Ryan Corrison comes to JMU from Seattle, Wash. He has previously lived in New York and has taught dance at other universities.

» Watch the full interview with Corrison online at breezejmu.org/multimedia

What is your teaching style?

Part of the reason why I dance is because of times in class where I could just get lost in the movement. That's what I love about dance – is that it transports you into another place and I also feel like you grow as an artist when you have those experiences and when you're doing something because you really love it, so there's this intrinsic satisfaction with it. That's one of my goals for my classes is to provide an environment where the dancers are comfortable with themselves and they can let go of their other anxieties and burdens ... I try to combine a challenging technical element but also then create movement that fun and feels good and where we can support each other and root each other on.

What do you see as the role of dance in society?

Well the first thing, I think there's just something enjoyable about moving that a lot of people can find. One parallel that

I have to it is I used to play tennis pretty competitively. I remember practicing on these tennis courts and there was a couple next to me who were horrible tennis players but they just laughing and having a great time. I looked at them and here I am, really focused and not having so much fun with it because I'm just trying to get better. I kind of see dance that way. I look at that couple and they were enjoying tennis more than I was, and so I see dance that way – it's something that can be enjoyable at whatever level you're at ... It's not as valued in some ways as highly as sports or some other areas but I think its significant for bringing about different ways for people to express themselves and different ways for people to share their knowledge. I believe that movement – kinesthetic experience is an intelligence ... That's one of the things I want to do in dance is expose other people to this way of intelligence and satisfaction and enjoyment.

CONTACT Bianca Moorman at moormabr@dukes.jmu.edu.

EPIC | Adjustable classroom layout will promote discussion-based learning



JULIA WALKER / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The new EPIC classrooms will be housed in the Student Success Center. The SSC will also house different offices such as the Card Services. The University Health Center will also be easily accessible from there.

from front

different disciplines such as nursing, biology, engineering, math and political science have already applied for permission to use EPIC classrooms. Fourteen have been selected for the 2014-15 year and will participate in a focus group led by the Center for Faculty Innovation and the Center for Instructional Technology at JMU to share ideas and experiences of how the new classrooms can facilitate a deeper understanding of the material covered in their classes.

David Stringham, an assistant music professor, said that EPIC will offer a unique opportunity to experiment with how the classroom environment contributes to students' learning. This system allows spaces for faculty to customize their students needs one way the university is helping their students be more successful.

In the old classroom model, Barron said, "You, the student, are a vessel and the lecturer is just pouring information into you, but you're not doing anything to think about it, to construct it,

to challenge it, to critique it, to question it. The idea is, when you make it interactive with discussions ... you're not passive, you're active."

There are six different layouts and eight classrooms. Class sizes can range from 15 to 93 students. Most furniture can be easily folded and moved in order to create different configurations depending on the needs of the particular class.

Rooms 4041 and 4045, however, are designed differently. Both feature five to six student learning "pods." Each pod will have a large LCD screen for sharing work directly from a student's tablet or laptop. The pods themselves will not be movable, but individual students can change seats depending on the project or group assigned to them. 4041 will only seat 22 while 4045 will seat up to 48 students.

The most requested room by far is 4044, which can seat 93. The layout resembles that of the previous two, but will boast three projection points instead of just two to increase visibility for students in lecture classes.

"A broader issue that EPIC speaks to is the changing nature of

technology. We no longer have to rely on desktops," McCarthy said.

McCarthy said that he applied to use classroom 4041 because he is a big believer in BYOD or "Bring Your Own Device" in order to facilitate better cooperation and collaboration in group work.

The technology in the EPIC classrooms will provide multiple opportunities for instant feedback on class work, particularly in rooms 4041 and 4045 where students can easily share their work in the pod setting.

Meixner said that one of the most important aspects of EPIC will be that JMU faculty will not have to rely solely on professors from other universities to teach them innovative teaching methods in flexible environments. Instead, she said, we will have JMU faculty teaching JMU faculty.

"It will be intriguing to see if this will be the next generation of classrooms," Barron said. "When you come back for your 20th reunion, they may look like this."

CONTACT Caitlin Trimble at trimblcb@dukes.jmu.edu.

SNOW | Professors bemoan large amount of class time lost to cancellations

from front

have to do that day, Stockwell said.

According to Stockwell several members of JMU's faculty face this problem because when JMU is closed, so are schools and day cares. This means professors are staying in and watching kids, which causes them to lose a day of work.

When she misses class, Stockwell does her best to try and fill upcoming classes with as much material as possible, and even assigns online components, but one thing she can't always easily overcome is the loss of lab time.

For GISAT 113 labs for instance, "the makeup process is complicated because we are trying to keep a whole bunch of sections synchronized," Stockwell said. "If they get asynchronized it gets to be a ton of work for everybody behind the scenes because it forces them to prep multiple labs, something we don't allow to happen."

In this scenario, it forces ISAT professors who are teaching the class to put their heads together to come up with a solution.

According to Stockwell, when this happens it can limit the amount of time students have to complete labs, which means there is no excess time to correct errors and some steps of the lab must be completed by faculty members rather than students — Two things that take away from the educational experience.

Assistant theatre professor Ingrid DeSanctis is another professor who feels some of the educational experience of her classes has been lost because of the snow.

DeSanctis is teaching four classes this semester (playwriting, advanced playwriting, intermediate acting and physical world of the actor).

In her intermediate acting class, DeSanctis said she and her students are about one week behind schedule. Students are split up into groups of two or three and are graded on their performance of scenes DeSanctis assigned to them. Although the groups work outside of class to rehearse the scenes, they're also required to perform them in class in order to get feedback from their peers and DeSanctis.

"It's important to be seen in class, and you cannot rush that," she said. "When you lose a day, then the day that you were going to be graded gets moved back."

While DeSanctis is planning on holding one makeup day for both intermediate acting and the physical world of the actor classes, she is also considering saving time by assigning her acting students

shorter scenes — four pages to memorize instead of six, for example.

But DeSanctis' advanced playwriting class has perhaps taken the hardest hit from the closing. The class, which only meets once a week on Mondays, hasn't met since Feb. 24. On March 3, JMU closed due to weather. The class didn't meet the following two weeks because of spring break and another inclement weather closing.

The students, she said, are in the process of writing full-length plays, which will be anywhere from 40 to 60 pages when completed. These playwriting students, like her acting students require ample feedback from others so they can better their work.

"It's critical to have class," she said. "Most playwrights end up spending most of their time editing ... you actually develop your ear for what works as you listen to other's work [and] your work out loud."

If on schedule, DeSanctis said her students would be halfway done by now. She said many of her students have kept up with the writing despite the delays, and the quality of their writing has remained consistently strong.

DeSanctis said she has been communicating with the eight students in that class via email, trying to agree on a makeup date. However, as she has found out many of the students in the class have other requirements during the weekends, making rescheduling a daunting task, even in a class of eight people.

"All this beautiful snow is putting us in a really difficult situation," DeSanctis said with a laugh. "Students love that map of the semester that you give them in the syllabus and they hold fast to it ... what they have to understand is as professors, now, we're constantly adjusting to this."

DeSanctis said she is planning to hold a five-hour long "beautiful marathon makeup day" with her students, who will be able to enjoy their lost time with each other while eating pizza.

DeSanctis said she's appreciative of her students' consistent hard work, and said it's important to make the best of the difficult situation.

"I think it's a great life lesson," she said. "Often things don't turn out the way you want them to and it's our ability to adjust that really shows who we are. So you try to believe that and try to teach that to your students."

CONTACT IJ Chan and William Mason at breezenews@gmail.com.

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CARD | JMU doesn't reimburse students for money lost or stolen on JACards

from page A3

suspect's school, home address, phone number, email and age were on the receipt, along with Parker's forged signature.

After discovering her name and email address, Parker was able to find out where she lived. He then made his way to her dorm and confronted her about his stolen JACard.

At first she blamed it on her upstairs neighbors, claiming that she had given them the card to return to Parker, but was caught when the upstairs neighbors were able to provide an Instagram photo of her with the food she had purchased with the caption: "This is what

happens when you find someone's JACard."

Parker once again confronted the girl, who then returned his JACard and repaid the \$90 she had spent.

The Terms and Conditions of JACards states that, "should the card become lost or stolen, the university assumes no responsibility for illegitimate withdrawals from the customer's account prior to the customer notifying Card Services or campus police."

If repayment is not settled privately after a JACard is stolen, the only way students can get their money back is to take the case to court through campus police. This is a rare occurrence, with only one or two cases going to court

happening per academic year.

Card Services has set up limitations to protect JACards from unapproved use in the instance that the card is lost or stolen. Cashiers at dining halls are not allowed to let students make purchases with JACards that are not theirs, and the vending machines on campus have a daily spending limit of \$20.

But these limitations don't prohibit JACards from being used at off-campus businesses that accept FLEX. Instead, when it comes to a missing JACard, timing is important.

"We encourage students to deactivate their cards immediately when they know it's lost," Jan Roberson, the manager of Card Services,

said.

Deactivation can be reported to Card Services in person or by phone during business hours or to Campus police if Card Services is closed. JACards can also be deactivated on the Card Services website, jmu.edu/cardctr, and reactivated for free if the card is recovered.

After his experience, Parker has been taking extra precautions against losing his card.

"So far it's working," he said. "I try to keep [my JACard] in my phone case at all times so I don't lose it again."

CONTACT Lauren Hunt at huntle@dukes.jmu.edu.

Colleges deal with cyber hacking

Johns Hopkins University and University of Maryland-College Park question openness after data of students, alumni and faculty were stolen

By **SCOTT DANCE**
The Baltimore Sun

In the two weeks between recent revelations that hackers stole data on students, alumni and faculty from the University of Maryland-College Park and the Johns Hopkins University, nearly 360,000 records were swiped in similar attacks at schools in Pennsylvania, Indiana and North Dakota.

Online thieves have increasingly sought sensitive or otherwise valuable data from educational institutions, experts say. Last year alone, breaches included possible exposure of 2.5 million Social Security and bank account numbers associated with an Arizona community college system, 74,000 Social Security numbers of University of Delaware students and staff and 145,000 applications to Virginia Tech, according to the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse.

Colleges and universities often are attractive targets for hackers because there are many access points into their networks, which contain not just financial and personal data but also valuable intellectual property. That threat is forcing academics to reassess the way they keep and protect vast collections of information, often held in decentralized computer networks accessible to thousands of students, professors and researchers.

"It's been a long-standing concern that our culture of collaboration and trust kind of flies in the face of the need for security to be more closed, more alert and more skeptical and cynical," said Rodney Petersen, senior policy adviser for SecuriCORE, a higher-education information security project at Indiana University. Just as campuses have added gates, guards and surveillance cameras on in recent decades, they may have to end the era of open access to online resources, he said.

The University of Maryland and other institutions reeling from

major data thefts are redoubling efforts to confine and protect sensitive data spread across networks — sometimes so scattered that it's a complicated task simply to learn where the data might be hiding and vulnerable. The growing security risks may also require new barriers around networks that have been traditionally open in the name of academic discourse and unfettered access.

But unlike retailers, banks and other companies that guard sensitive data, universities can't mandate what devices or software are used to access their networks. And they must accommodate students and researchers spread across the globe, making it more difficult to prevent and detect security breaches.

Since January 2013, more than 50 colleges, universities and school systems across the country have been the targets of attacks that may have compromised personal information, according to the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, a California-based consumer-advocacy group.

Such attacks are not confined to colleges and universities. The school systems in Maryland's Howard and Carroll counties, for example, have reported network disruptions linked to possible cyberattacks this year, though personal data was not thought to have been at risk in either case.

Since a breach compromised names, Social Security numbers and birth dates of 287,580 students, faculty and staff at the University of Maryland on Feb. 18, officials said they have purged more than three-fourths of the sensitive records, some of which dated back to 1992. But they are also hastening to learn how vulnerable the university's data remains, and how to prevent future attacks.

A cybersecurity task force that university President Wallace Loh called together within 24 hours of the attack is set to consider whether information technology systems on campus should be centralized to keep sensitive data in one place, rather than

scattered across various colleges and departments. The group, which met for the first time last week, also is launching an effort to scan all university databases for personal information that could be at risk.

Similar actions have taken place at Johns Hopkins, where officials on March 6 announced an attack that occurred late last year compromising names and email addresses of 848 biomedical engineering students, as well as confidential evaluations of classmates. In response to attacks and at the urging of auditors, the university has moved to prioritize what data needs the highest levels of protection, said Darren Lacey, the university's chief information security officer.

Cybersecurity experts familiar with educational institutions' challenges fending off hackers said the strategies are common responses to the growing threats. While they have traditionally used "open coffee-house style" networks, institutions are increasingly rearranging how they organize business systems such as tuition processing or employee payroll, said James Robinson, director of security for Accuvant, a cybersecurity company that works with higher-education clients.

That sort of strategy is one of their few options, given the broad access allowed on a university network. While a company can control what technology their employees use to connect remotely — often through secure virtual private networks — universities don't have that luxury. And though security measures typically include automated systems that look for unusual activity or known malicious actors, that can be like finding a needle in a haystack.

Lacey said of Hopkins' monitoring efforts, "Really, everything is an anomaly. If I get a million connections from another country, a corporation might say, 'That's not good.' In our world, because we have students and faculty all over the world, that doesn't necessarily trigger any response from us."

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JON HENRY | contributing columnist

JMU policies are far from complete

School officials need to consider gender identity and expression when making rules



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

The Trans* Inclusion Committee at JMU started a petition (with over 200 signatures) to include gender identity and expression in JMU's non-discrimination policy.

On Jan. 11, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe issued Executive Order No. 1, which prohibits discrimination by state institutions on the basis of "race, sex, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, political affiliation or against otherwise qualified persons with disabilities." This was the first time that gender identity had become a protected class in Virginia. Gender identity refers to a person's innate, deeply felt psychological gender identification, which may or may not correspond to the person's body or designated sex at birth.

This is an important step toward creating a safer and more open community in relationship to gender. This law is especially important to the transgender community, which currently lacks legal protections. Some think that sexual orientation protects the trans* community, but in reality it doesn't; issues of gender do not relate directly to sexual attraction, desire and activities. This protection is also very important

because trans* communities experience disproportionate levels of violence, exclusion and oppression as compared to the general community or LGBT community. The term "trans*" is an effort to create a more inclusive culture in the transgender community by taking into account all other identities such as genderqueer (identifying as no gender) or bigender (identifying as both genders).

These issues play into school settings as documented in 2011 by the National Center for Transgender Equality because "those who expressed a transgender identity or gender non-conformity while in grades K-12 reported alarming rates of harassment (78 percent), physical assault (35 percent) and sexual violence (12 percent); harassment was so severe that it led almost one-sixth (15 percent) to leave a school in K-12 settings or in higher education." Furthermore, 45 percent of hate crime murder victims were transgender women, while representing only 10 percent

of total hate violence survivors and victims, as according to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

Hopefully, this new protection will allow for the formation of a safer school environment for trans* students, staff and faculty.

JMU's students, faculty, staff and alumni have long advocated for the university to include gender identity, along with gender expression, in its policies.

JMU's students, faculty, staff and alumni have long advocated for the university to include gender identity, along with gender expression, in its policies. Students have created a

petition to fight this issue and have already gathered over 200 signatures.

Surprisingly, many of our institution's faculty and staff still remain unaware of this statewide policy change.

I wonder why our university, which is so focused on assessment and management, cannot seem to educate its community about a new far-reaching policy, that could easily lead to litigation.

I understand the change was sudden, and yet the issue has been lifted up for years through the voices of concerned students and staff.

There is plenty of national resources created around this topic by groups like Campus Pride, Transgender On-campus Nondiscrimination Information (TONI) Project, GLAAD, Human Rights Campaign, etc. I am furthermore surprised by JMU's inaction because its vision statement declares it to be a "national model for the engaged university: engaged with ideas and the world." I wonder what "ideas" our administration

and university view as needing engagement?

The inclusion of gender identity and gender expression — how a person's gender identity is communicated to others through behavior, clothing, hairstyle, voice and/or by emphasizing, de-emphasizing or changing physical characteristics in non-discrimination policies is not new (or radical), as over 730 universities, including eight in Virginia, and 61 percent of Fortune 500 companies include these protections.

Expanding our non-discrimination policy follows suit with our commitments toward engagement, diversity and workplace preparedness.

We are still waiting for JMU — a state institution — to amend its non-discrimination policy to include gender identity and gender expression.

Jon Henry is a sophomore studio art major. Contact Jon at henryjw@dukes.jmu.edu.

DARTS & PATS

Darts & Pats are anonymously submitted and printed on a space-available basis. Submissions creatively depict a given situation, person or event and do not necessarily reflect the truth. Submit Darts & Pats at breezejmu.org

An **"award-for-best-professor"** pat to my professor for canceling my only Friday class.
From a junior who enjoyed sleeping in after a long week.

A **"we-get-it-already"** dart to the Opinion section of *The Breeze* for publishing so many articles about diversity issues at JMU.
From someone who understands, but also thinks JMU is not as discriminating as these articles make it seem, and thinks it's getting a little repetitive.

A **"thanks-for-being-friendly-neighbors"** pat to all the Pheasant Run residents I have lived with for the last three years.
From a happy resident.

A **"long-overdue-thank-you"** pat to the then-freshman driving a yellow punch buggy who gave a crying girl a ride home one Saturday night.
From a 2012 alumna who never forgot your kindness.

A **"that's-such-a-generalization"** dart to the writer of the Opinion article that bashed all of Greek life. Just because one person was rude does not mean the entire organization should be blamed. My sisters do countless hours of volunteer work and are some of the sweetest girls I've ever met. Think before you point fingers.
From a sorority girl who has definitely heard non-affiliated people gossiping in Carrier Library before.

A **"one-bad-apple-doesn't-ruin-the-bunch"** dart to the contributing opinion writer in *The Breeze* hating on Greek life. Newsflash: we're not all the same.
From a Greek member who is appalled by her naivety.

An **"ignorance-isn't-bliss"** dart to Hayley Thompson's "What women want" column. Saying all men want the same thing is just as wrong and hurtful as saying all women want the same thing.
From someone who believes that stereotypes are wrong for every gender, not just when used on women.

A **"thanks-for-the-air-freshener"** dart to the countless number of students who puff their cigarette smoke into other peoples faces while walking to class or standing outside doorways. Just because you want to breathe in toxic chemicals doesn't mean others want to.
From a student who cares about good health and wishes others did too.

A **"thanks-for-making-our-dream-a-reality"** pat to the W.M. Jordan Company. From the foundation to the flowers ... you guys are the best!
From the University Health Center staff who love our beautiful new home.

A **"you-don't-even-know"** pat to the girl in Charleston Townes who couldn't stop thanking me for returning her lost cat from the cold.
From someone who really needed that extra kitty love before going home for spring break to see her very own cats.

A **"that's-not-the-JMU-way"** dart to whoever stole my Nike University Recreation jacket from Copper Beech Townhomes two weekends ago.
From a UREC employee who thought JMU was better than that, and would just really like her jacket back, please.

A **"truck-yeah"** pat to the big red truck that parks in Warsaw Parking Deck.
From a junior who wants a ride.

A **"that-was-cold"** dart to the girl who carelessly sent an icicle flying in my direction when I was trying to walk home.
From someone who thinks you should know not to throw sharp sticks of ice, especially at others.

A **"happy-spring-break-to-you-too"** dart to the disgruntled Parking Services attendant who ticketed all the cars in our parking lot while we were working over break.
From an employee who got ticketed, and whose parking pass was definitely in her car.

A **"what-a-disappointment"** dart to Panama City Beach for being a terrible spring break destination.
From a junior who didn't appreciate the crowds and mass amounts of boys trying to touch her.

A **"getcha-own"** dart to the professor who always bums a cigarette off of me outside Jackson Hall.
From a senior who is strapped for cash and is never in the mood for charity. Ever.

Editorial Policies

The Breeze welcomes and encourages readers to voice their opinions through letters and guest columns. Letters must be no longer than 250 words. Guest columns must be no more than 650 words.

The Breeze reserves the right to edit submissions for length, grammar and if material is libelous, factually inaccurate or unclear. *The Breeze* assumes the rights to any published work. Opinions expressed in this page, with the exception of editorials, are not necessarily those of *The Breeze* or its staff.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted in print or via e-mail and must include name, phone number, major/year if author is a current student (or year of graduation), professional title (if applicable) and place of residence if author is not a JMU student.

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"To the press alone, chequered as it is with abuses, the world is indebted for all the triumphs which have been gained by reason and humanity over error and oppression."

— JAMES MADISON, 1800

The Breeze
MSC 6805 G1
Anthony-Seeger Hall
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
breezeopinion@gmail.com

KRISTEN BAKER | duking it out

It's not a race thing

Diversity comes in all shapes and sizes, just like us



In the past few weeks, the Opinion section has featured a number of articles discussing diversity at JMU, or specifically the lack thereof. Each of these articles has targeted JMU for underrepresenting a number of minority groups and these writers are mostly right; there is an obvious

and apparent lack of racial and physical diversity at JMU. But, when put into perspective, JMU is hardly to blame, and physical differences are not the only disparities that exist.

Diversity is a complicated concept. I do not mean to belittle the experiences of the students who have shared their stories or anyone who has encountered discrimination based on their physical differences, but the fact is that we are living in a country, state and city that is predominantly white. According to the United States Census Bureau in 2010, Rockingham County is approximately 90 percent white; the state of Virginia alone is nearly 70 percent; JMU falls in between at 80 percent. It is so easy to see on the surface that there is an abundance of white students at JMU, but the truth is that there is an abundance of white people in the U.S.

There is no easy fix to altering demographics. But what we don't see and seem to have failed to realize is that minority groups exist beyond what we can see. The dictionary defines diversity as "a state of unlikeness" or "the condition of being different," but because we are all different, diversity includes everyone.

While sitting in a classroom students can see differences like skin color or physical disabilities, but what we don't see are mental disabilities, learning disabilities, religious affiliations and sexual orientation. There are students who have same-sex parents, students who are adopted, students who were sperm donor conceived and students who are parents themselves. There are students who aren't from this country and students who learned English as their second language. There are so many characteristics and experiences that separate us from one another and, in a sense, it's truly enlightening to recognize how unique we are as individuals. These differences are what make us who we are and affect the choices we make and feelings we have every day. But if we concentrate on what makes us different, we fail to see what makes us the same.

In Richard Buchner's book "Diversity Consciousness: Opening Our Minds to People, Cultures and Opportunities," he states, "by focusing exclusively on our differences and ignoring our similarities, we create fear." It seems to me that it's not the lack of diversity that has us in uproar, but our own inhibitions and insecurities based on how we perceive our surroundings. When we focus on what makes us different, the biggest differentiation is the one we are making up in our heads. The very people you think are judging you are probably thinking that you are judging them. It's human to want to be liked and it's normal to feel out of place. This is something all of us have in common and will continue to deal with each and every day.

Differences bring about diversity, but diversity does not mean that we are divided.

I am white, I am a girl and I'm from Northern Virginia. At the beginning of every semester as I walk into each class for the first time, I still feel like everyone is staring at me even though half the class is made up of "white No Va. girls." From my own experience, being part of a demographic majority doesn't make a difference; it does not bond us in any way nor make me feel at home. New situations bring about new feelings — insecurity, uncertainty and displacement — because that's how the human mind works.

Differences bring about diversity, but diversity does not mean that we are divided. Although it may not be blatantly obvious, diversity exists on campus in a number of ways and because the majority of these differences aren't visible, we don't comprehend the vast scope of distinctive people we are interacting with everyday. When we were little, we were taught the phrase "don't judge a book by its cover."

In this case, this phrase can be applied in that what this university may look like on the surface does not account for the many unique people that make it up. We have to come to terms that what we feel is natural, that feeling out of place in a place away from home makes sense. Just because many people are dissimilar from you does not mean that the rest us are identical to each other.

Kristen Baker is a junior media arts and design major. Contact Kristen at bakerkl@dukes.jmu.edu.

KEVAN HULLIGAN | contributing columnist

Russia vs. Ukraine

Putin has no business interfering with sovereign nation

Once again, President Vladimir Putin has come to show himself as the brutal, tyrannical thug he truly is. After the notorious ousting of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich by the Euromaidan protesters, Russia amassed troops in the autonomous Crimea region of Ukraine, bolstering their military base in the region and taking over key areas. During this time, armed gunmen seized the Crimean Parliament building, and parliament conveniently established a vote of no confidence in the Ukrainian government.

A referendum has been held and the voters have overwhelmingly voted for joining Russia. What comes next is uncertain as there is a truce in place between Ukraine and Russia until March 21, but two things are absolutely certain: Putin's manipulation of events in Ukraine is imperialistic and the West needs to do more to help liberate Ukraine and stop Russian expansionism.

It is obvious to me that this referendum is illegitimate and born out of coercion and sabotage by Putin and his gang of thugs in the Kremlin.

The polls indicate the votes for yes being in the high 90s in terms of percentage, which would be common in countries like North Korea or China under Chairman Mao but not in an actually free vote, of which this referendum is not. Despite there being a large ethnic Russian population in Crimea, the number of ethnic Ukrainians and Tartars makes it highly unlikely that the percent of yes votes would be anywhere near 90 percent.

For all intents and purposes, this referendum is a total sham, made to give off the appearance of legitimacy for what is ostensibly a military takeover of a section of Ukrainian territory. Crimea holds an important warm water port in Sevastopol and ever since the crisis in Syria began, they have lost any meaningful control of the port. Because of this loss, Putin will do anything and everything to hold on to that particular port.

What Putin fails to comprehend is that Ukraine is not some sort of ball of putty that can be molded to fit his desires. The Soviet Union is long gone, and Ukraine is an independent, sovereign nation.

The people have raised their voices and ousted a corrupt president in order for their will to be sufficiently enforced and Putin must respect the outcome. It is not surprising that he did not recognize democracy in action as he has spent the majority of his life

putting a muzzle over the mouth of his own citizens, only allowing them to speak when they support his end goals of maintaining his power. Sooner than later, Putin and despots like him will realize that people backed into a corner will eventually lash out to protect themselves.

What Putin fails to comprehend is that Ukraine is not some sort of ball of putty that can be molded to fit his desires. The Soviet Union is long gone, and Ukraine is an independent, sovereign nation.

Since the vote from Crimea, the US and the European Union have imposed economic sanctions towards Russia for the recent military incursion in the region. The U.S. has also frozen Russia's assets.

In my view, more could and should be done to punish Russia for its actions. Remember that the U.S. and the E.U. imposed sanctions on Syria as well, and that didn't really turn out like anyone wanted either. What I would propose is to have Turkey, along with North American Trade Organization, block the Istanbul Strait, essentially making the Port of Sevastopol more difficult to use. The E.U. should stop purchasing Russian gas and find alternative sources, say Saudi Arabia for instance, from which they can purchase their gas from. The sanctions in place are a good start, but the international community needs to turn up the heat to make it clear that they mean business.

The world missed its chance with Syria; it let Putin's Russia prevent a real movement for democracy in Syria and the result has been an industrialized nation being bombed back into the throes of despotism. Don't let Ukraine descend into tyranny and darkness. Some things are worth fighting for.

Kevan Hulligan is a junior political science major. Contact Kevan at hulligkx@dukes.jmu.edu.

RACHEL PETTY | contributing columnist

Take an alternative break

Service trips are rewarding in more ways than one

About a week ago I embarked on a journey that would lead me to the small town of Galloway, Jamaica in order to help build up its community and learn about its culture. I had no idea what to expect — I have gone on service trips before, but never to Jamaica. I love to travel and have had great experiences in the past, so I decided it would be an awesome way to spend spring break. Well, I was right.

Sure, you see the tweets: "Oh, let me see more pictures of your 'life-changing' service trip." But if you were to go to a foreign country for a once-in-a-lifetime experience, I'm sure you'd want to document it too. There is something special about helping other people, and I get a feeling that I couldn't get any other way. Making a child smile, teaching them something they didn't know before or seeing the difference you can make in just a day's work are all positive results of service trips.

Some people may ask, "Why would you spend the money to go somewhere for spring break when it's not even for your own good?" Well, it is. Watching a community grow and change because of something you did is the most rewarding thing to see. And to boot, most trips allow you to experience the beauty of the area in addition to doing service.

In Jamaica, we got to see their local church, visit a nearby waterfall, tour a cave, spend a day

at the local beach and take a trip to Negril. In my opinion, these are all enjoyable activities that allow you to experience another country. People may ask why someone would want to stay in a developing community rather than a resort, which is a valid question. However, I got to stay with a host family (that was beyond welcoming), and experience true Jamaican living.

We ate authentic Jamaican meals, and were able to talk to the family and learn about their culture and lifestyle. This also provided us with the opportunity to get to know the children in the area, and work at the schools for two days on the trip. The lovingness and appreciativeness of the children is unbelievable, and something I will never forget.

The next time you're thinking about plans for spring break, think twice before you book that all-inclusive vacation in Cancun.

Sure, it's nice to get free margaritas for a week straight, but it's also nice to help a community while still experiencing the country. If cementing a fence to the ground isn't your thing, the look you receive from the children's faces will definitely change that.

Rachel Petty is a freshman media arts and design major. Contact Rachel at pettyrb@dukes.jmu.edu.

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Success by the slice

Benny Sorrentino's brings the newest, biggest pizzas to downtown Harrisonburg



JAMES CHUNG / THE BREEZE

Aaron Gray prepares one of Benny Sorrentino's signature 28-inch pizzas to be baked and sold by the slice. One of Benny's 14-inch cheese slices sells for \$4, while pepperoni sell for \$5.

By **LAUREN HUNT** and **GILLIAN DUKOFF**
The Breeze

Benny Sorrentino's "Home of the Virginia Slice," has hit Harrisonburg. At 14 inches, its colossal slices have become the talk of the town. Located at 64 S. Mason St., below the Urban Exchange apartments, it is an easy walk for students who live on campus.

Benny's, which already has locations in Radford, Blacksburg and Roanoke, has added Harrisonburg as its newest.

"We try to go into smaller downtown areas, and downtown Harrisonburg is thriving," Jon Durham, a Bridgewater graduate ('09) and the manager of Benny Sorrentino's said. "And the JMU student body is pretty big."

Outside of the restaurant, you are greeted by an outdoor patio with picnic benches — a perfect seating arrangement as the weather starts to warm up. Customers can enjoy a unique and eclectic decor that meshes old and new furniture, creating a cool, urban environment. Seating is available both inside and outside.

Benny's offers free two-hour parking across the street, which should be enough time to finish a single, enormous slice. However, finding a spot is not guaranteed.

The restaurant has been sweeping across social media sites, garnering over 1,000 likes on its Facebook page in a matter of months. Additionally, its hashtag has been taking over Instagram, with students posing with slices bigger than their own heads. This marketing has been

crucial in drawing customers in, with its gigantic pizza keeping the customers coming back.

Janey Goodman, a freshman kinesiology major, had rave reviews after ordering a cheese slice.

"The pizzas are such a sight and they're so good too," Goodman said. "It's different than the normal old carry out like Dominos and Papa Johns cause it's just original baked pizza."

According to Durham, the difference in taste comes from the freshness of the ingredients and care that goes into the making of each pie.

"We make our own dough and sauce so our pizzas are really good quality," Durham said.

Cheese slices are \$4 and pepperoni are \$5, which is inexpensive considering their massiveness. For a cheese pie, you're looking at \$28, and \$35 for a pie with any toppings. Customers even have the option of customizing the toppings for each slice.

However, those toppings are not the only ones available. Benny's offers monthly pizza specials. This month, its specials include Hawaiian, Spinach and Feta. Benny's will also be adding beer to its menu in the near future.

Unlike other pizzerias, Benny's take is simple and delicious with no fuss.

Kelsey McCamey, a senior international affairs major, headed over to Benny's before spring break for a relaxing and laid-back dinner with her roommates. Instead of ordering a plain, cheese slice, she decided to be adventurous.

"It just so happened that I was craving buffalo chicken and the special was buffalo chicken pizza so I ordered a

slice of that which was a really good choice," McCamey said.

McCamey also enjoyed the general atmosphere that Benny's offered. "The vibe was just a college town vibe. Everyone seemed to be college students in there and there was some cool art on the walls," she said.

Morgan Leary, also a senior international affairs major, shared similar sentiments. "Benny's is different from other pizza places in a big way, literally; the slices of pizza there are huge," Leary said.

"The size of our slices is definitely a novelty," Durham said.

Leary plans on heading back to Benny's the next chance she gets. "I think that is a part of the success they have had because really, who doesn't want to eat a slice of pizza that is bigger than size of their head?" Leary said.

Goodman agreed. "I would definitely suggest it to a friend, it's amazing!" she said.

Benny's is open not only during the day, opening at 11 a.m., but also when college students are craving pizza the most: late night.

During the week, Benny's closes at midnight, on Thursdays, 2 a.m., and on Friday and Saturday, you can score a pizza until 3 a.m. They are open every day of the week for dine in or carry out only. More information can be found at bennysva.com or by phone at 540-432-6400. Get to Benny's soon for a monster slice of tasty and original pizza.

CONTACT Lauren Hunt and Gillian Dukoff at breezearts@gmail.com.

commentary

'I Don't Think They Know'

Chris Brown sent back to prison after additional violent outbursts

By **BREANNA GARRETT**
The Breeze

Chris Brown has gotten into some more trouble and it looks as if he's used up all of his chances.

After Brown's altercation in Washington, D.C., which landed the singer an assault charge, he was sent to a rehabilitation center in Malibu. While receiving treatment for anger issues, Brown was discharged for violating the facility's policies and breaking contract. By defying court orders, the talented musician was sent to jail and this time he's wearing the suit.

On Monday, March 17, Brown was ordered by a judge to remain in a Los Angeles jail until his next trial. It's sad to know that a gifted individual like him is slowly throwing his life away over something he's had multiple opportunities to fix.

The allegations made by the Malibu facility show that Brown's issues may go far beyond their reach. ABC News reported that the facility was treating Brown for drug abuse and anger management, but after some time he was also treated for symptoms of bipolar disorder. Since his Mike Tyson-move on singer Rihanna, Brown was prohibited from contact with any females within the facility, although he was cited touching one on the elbow. I'm not sure if the move was aggressive, or even intentional, but precautions are better than any possible violence.

According to TMZ, during a group exercise where each patient was to say what they were good

at, Brown's comment was straightforward and ignorant: instead of simply stating his recognizable talents, Chris stated, "I am good at using guns and knives."

Now I'm sure we all hope Brown's big sarcastic smile and rolling of the eyes after making the comment was genuine, but these days he's the ultimate puzzle. Brown's music career has flourished since he was the adorable guy with big clothes and freckles; people change. After the many criticisms, Chris has endured enough restrictions on his life. His role is to simply do right.

Brown's trial for his misdemeanor assault charge was set for April 17, but because he's locked in cuffs while wearing an orange jumpsuit, he will not be attending. Chris' attorney stated that on the day of his discharge that Brown woke up on the wrong side of the bed. To me, it's a clear statement that his mood swings are way out of control — there's a huge issue when you're getting kicked out of a rehab center.

While the singer's attorney hopes to gain an alternative for his client so that he may be able to get released on an appeals court motion, we're all anxious for his recovery. However, the reality of the situation is that the judges may be getting tired of Brown's shenanigans.

His court date is now set for April 23.

Breanna Garrett is a senior writing, rhetoric and technical communication major. Contact her at garretbd@dukes.jmu.edu.



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Chris Brown was discharged from rehab after telling his peers he is "good at using guns and knives."

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
20	21	22	23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A lecture with Lindsay Kinkade @ Duke Hall Gallery Court, free, 6:30 p.m. “Steel Magnolias,” presented by the Valley Playhouse @ Court Square Theater, tickets \$10 to \$12, 8 p.m. Foghorn Stringband live @ Clementine Cafe, tickets \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door, 9 - 11:30 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decorate the Spirit Rock for disability awareness month @ East Campus, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Start Making Sense Talking Heads Tribute with “HmfO” : a Hall and Oates Tribute live @ Clementine Cafe, tickets \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door, 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Student Association’s JMU Holi 2014, a celebration of spring @ Hillside field, \$3 for the first two bags of powder and \$2 for each additional bag, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rhinestone Productions Drag Show @ The Artful Dodger, tickets \$3, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Reverend Peyton Big Damn Blues Revolution Tour with the Dex Romweber Duo live @ Clementine Cafe, tickets \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door, 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Steel Magnolias,” presented by the Valley Playhouse @ Court Square Theater, tickets \$10 to \$12, now playing at 3 p.m. Kat and the Travelers live @ CrossKeys Vineyards at Mount Crawford, free, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.



Something missing? Email us at breezearts@gmail.com.

CSARTS | ‘The possibilities are endless’

from front

that instead of receiving locally-grown food, shareholders will receive a harvest of works of art from local artists, ranging from paintings to sculptures to photography. Individuals can buy a share for \$425 and will receive one piece of art per month from April to November. For the first year of the program, there will be a maximum of 10 shares available.

“We made a list of quality artists that we knew locally who were prolific, with high personal standards, and had a flexible, adventurous spirit,” Valerie Smith, the owner of Larkin Arts and a JMU Class of 2001 alumna, said. There are currently seven local artists involved with CSArts. “We narrowed that list as we decided to ensure a range of media. We now have two mixed media artists, a wood turner, a drawing genius, a photographer, a jewelry artist and a printmaker.”

Each artist is responsible for creating 10 pieces of art a month, one for each shareholder. Paul Riner, owner of Riner Rentals as well as a shareholder, thinks that CSArts is a unique way to connect local artists to the art lovers in the community, while also supporting the local art scene.

“The fact that we don’t know what type of art we will get over the eight month subscription makes it even more exciting,” Riner said. “Some of it will end up on our walls, some may end up at my office, others may be given as gifts. The possibilities are endless.”

At \$425 for a share that lasts eight months, shareholders will receive eight original pieces of local art for a little over \$50 a piece, while the local artists get the chance to get their art out into the community. Each artist gets \$500 from the sold shares, and the remaining \$200 goes toward promotion costs.

“Artists get to create and residents get a great sampling of local artists at an incredible price,” Riner said. “It’s a really good marriage between the creative minds of the artists and the uncreative people like myself who still love to appreciate the incredible work they do.”

This is the first year for CSArts, but it hopes to make it an annual harvest. Because they recruit local artists for the program, there is room for JMU students to be a part of CSArts in the program’s future.

“If a JMU student is an active member of the local art community, then they would by all means be welcome to participate,” Smith said.

There are currently five out of the ten CSArts shares left and the deadline to register is on Saturday. The shares will be ready to pick up at Larkin Arts on the first Monday of each month. To purchase a share, stop by Larkin Arts at 61 Court Square or call (540) 236-4223.

“CSArts is a great way to get some great art, support local artists and give those artists free reign to create using their talents,” Riner said.

CONTACT Lauren Hunt at huntle@dukes.jmu.edu.

“CSArts is a great way to get some great art, support local artists and give those artists free reign to create using their talents.”

Paul Riner
Owner of Riner Rentals and a shareholder of CSArts

You’ll fall for it

‘Titanfall,’ boasts fast-paced gameplay and intricate maps



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

“Titanfall” was designed by many of the same developers of “Call of Duty” and “Medal of Honor.”

By TREVOR COCKBURN
contributing writer

If you’ve become weary of modern shooters such as “Call of Duty” and “Battlefield,” “Titanfall” may be the answer to your woes.

With “Titanfall,” Respawn Entertainment brings something new to the table — the change that gamers and the gaming industry needed.

In “Titanfall,” you can either play as free-running pilots or operate giant mech-style machines — Titans — to complete team-based missions. The two teams are called the Interstellar Manufacturing Corporation and the Militia. However, keep in mind that this game has no single player, so if you buy this game looking for a good story, you will surely be disappointed.

At the beginning of each match, all 12 players choose their pilot types and are dropped on the map. A timer provides a countdown to when a Titan can be deployed, a time that can be reduced by killing other players. Once the Titan is deployed, it is protected by a force field for 30 seconds, giving players time to get into the Titan without having to worry it about being destroyed or stolen by other players.

There are three different Titan styles: the Ogre, the Stryder and the Atlas. The Ogre, a conglomeration of weapons and sheer power, is slow and bulky, but packs a punch. The Stryder is for those who like mobility: it is agile and fast, making it difficult to get a clean shot. The last but most popular is the Atlas, which is a mixture of the two, making it the best overall option.

“Titanfall” is great in terms of gameplay. I’ve never played a game that plays this fast without things getting too complicated — it’s just plain fun. The pilots are extremely agile, and wall running has never felt any better. One thing that worried me before playing this game was the lack of balance between the pilots and the Titans, but Respawn Entertainment did a better job than I ever could have imagined.

There is a solid balance between the two opponents: Titans don’t rule the map while the pilots hide from them. Instead, the pilots’ mobility allows them to attack the Titans by climbing atop of them. But Respawn Entertainment again allows the Titans to counter the pilots’ attempts, making the gameplay more complex in a positive way.

All of the maps in the game adapt well to each of the game’s modes. The maps and environments come in many different varieties, and are detailed in a way that makes the game modes fun, interesting and intense.

Something that disappointed me about this game was its lack of different game modes. For most of the time, people play the Last Titan Standing mode, because it is the most common and familiar. Hopefully this problem can and will be fixed with a few patches in the near future to add a wide variety of game modes. Also, modification in this game is rather scarce.

If you are looking for a game with a strong storyline, or any story at all, look elsewhere. However, the game does have one of the strongest multiplayer I have seen in a long time. If you like fast-paced action and fun, as well as exciting maps, then you’ll be sure to love “Titanfall.”

Trevor Cockburn is a freshman writing, rhetoric and technical communication major. Contact him at cockbuta@dukes.jmu.edu.

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Write for the Life section of The Breeze!

Meetings are held Mondays and Thursdays at 5:45 p.m. in the basement of Anthony-Seeger Hall.



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2. “WAVES”
by SLEEPER AGENT
3. “COMING OF AGE”
by FOSTER THE PEOPLE
4. “RED EYES”
by THE WAR ON DRUGS
5. “CONCORDE”
by INCAN ABRAHAM
6. “NORTH STREET”
by DEATH
7. “FLY BOY BLUE / LUNETTE”
by ELBOW
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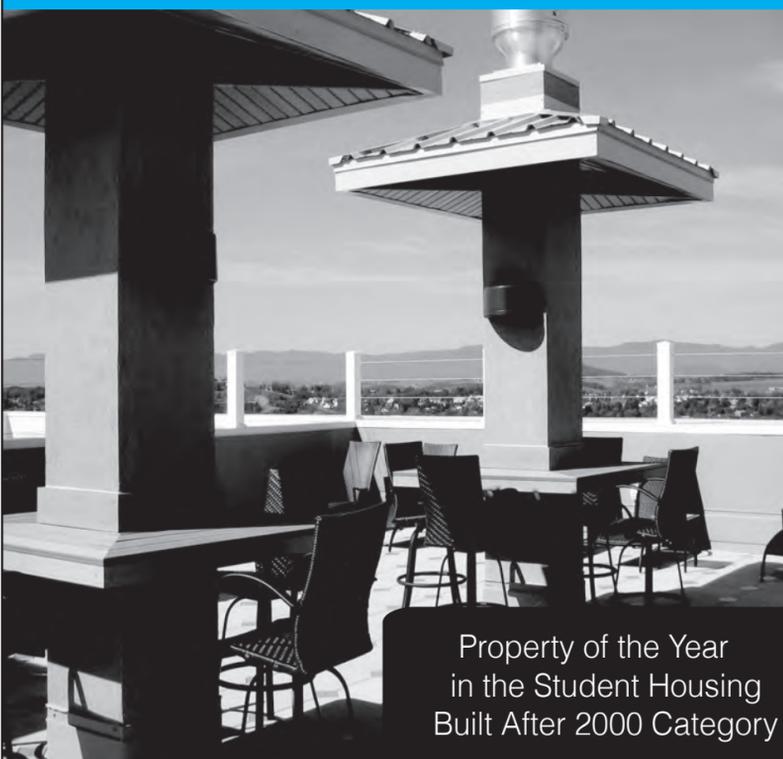


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STEPHEN PROFFITT

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Love the madness

College basketball in March creates an interesting spectacle

Ah, the pains, yet gains of college basketball. Another season of high blood pressure and Rogaine is in the books as 68 National Collegiate Athletic Association men's basketball coaches now have successfully pushed their teams into March Madness. Actually, only 64 remain as the 'First Four' happened the last couple of days.

Two years ago, I traversed the dingy concourse of the Richmond Coliseum to listen to head coach Matt Brady, on crutches after tearing his Achilles, plead for his job after an opening round loss to University of North Carolina at Wilmington in the Colonial Athletic Association and a 12-20 season.



And then just one year later, I sat inside the University of Dayton Arena with a sleek press pass and a stomach full of tacos as I was covering JMU in the NCAA tournament against Long Island University-Brooklyn. It was a part of the recently implemented 'First Four' section that expanded the tournament from 64 to 68 teams in 2011.

The Dukes defeated the Blackbirds 68-55 and advanced to face top-seeded Indiana University. They would've been the first 16-seed to take down a 1, but some things might never change; the Hoosiers predictably pummeled the Dukes 83-62.

JMU ended this season 12 days ago with another opening round loss in the CAA tournament at the hands of Towson University. It was the Dukes' third first round departure from the tournament in the last four years.

The dichotomy in college basketball is real and it's good.

University of Delaware will be the only team to represent the CAA in the big dance after winning the conference tournament last week.

They're the first team from outside Virginia to win the tournament since 2006 when Buzz Peterson and the UNCW Seahawks won. Receiving an automatic bid, the Blue Hens enter as a 13-seed in the East Region facing fourth-seeded Michigan State University this afternoon.

Actually, out of the last 35 CAA tournaments, a non-Virginia team has only won a mere eight times. Delaware may have started a new trend as JMU and William & Mary are the only CAA schools that still reside in the Commonwealth. Expect more contrast as the CAA evolves, adding North Carolina's Elon University next year. The conference is in a tough position.

March Madness always seems to come at the perfect time. With the National Football League in full hibernation, baseball preparing for Opening Day and the abyss of time that is the middle to tail end of the National Basketball Association and National Hockey League seasons, the NCAA tournament is March's main event.

I'll leave one question for you to contemplate as your television ignites for four days of non-stop hoops.

Do over 100,000 people need to attend the Final Four at the Dallas Cowboys' AT&T Stadium come April 5? Shall I write a second part to corporate America taking over sports in a negative way?

I paid \$617 to attend game two of the 2013 World Series at Fenway Park. There, I admitted it and hold zero regrets. However, it was held at a venue that caters to the sport it was hosting.

Imagine if they played the Fall Classic at Daytona Motor Speedway. Keep it proportional, and playing college basketball in an already oversized NFL stadium is not the dichotomy we are searching for. Let's pay hundreds, even thousands of dollars to question whether they're even using a basketball or re-enacting a scene from Gene Hackman's practices in Hoosiers because we're so far away from a court the size of a postage stamp!

Contrast is positive in college basketball which ensures the cycle to spin on for years to come. As great as dynasties may seem, a 68-team, single elimination tournament can break any team down.

I'll end by saying that the 61-41 loss JMU suffered at the University of Virginia back on Nov. 8 doesn't seem so bad as the Cavaliers scooped up the final No. 1 seed in this year's NCAA Tournament.

Good dichotomy, great basketball.

Stephen Proffitt is a junior media arts and design major. Contact Stephen at proffittjs@gmail.com.

SOFTBALL (19-9)

Island expressions

Softball team bonds and wins during two-week trip to Hawaii



PHOTO COURTESY OF @JMU_SOFTBALL

The softball team attends a luau while in Hawaii. The team spent two weeks in Hawaii, playing in two tournaments while also getting a chance to bond.

By GABRIELLE SMITH
contributing writer

When picturing the typical college spring break, images of alcohol, red Solo cups, girls in bikinis and usually some place tropical come to mind. While the tropical aspect was still in play, the softball team enjoyed a rather different experience.

"Spring break is unique in that you're not only working together as a softball team but you're also able to work on becoming a better person and a better group," head coach Mickey Dean said.

Over the past two weeks, the softball team lived together in a house on the beautiful island of Honolulu, while playing in the Hawaii Spring Fling and Pepsi Rainbow Wahine Classic tournaments. The Dukes went 9-1 overall during the tournaments to improve to 19-9 on the season.

But maybe more importantly, it was prime time for the team to bond.

"I think it's a good time to put the team in a different atmosphere to really get to know each other," Dean said.

The players were well fed throughout their stay as Dean prepared all of the team's meals. In the morning he would fix scrambled eggs and turkey bacon, in the afternoon they had sandwiches and dinner usually consisted of something grilled.

"It was nice to be able to sit down and have breakfast together every morning, and see each other in a different atmosphere than in the softball stadium," sophomore pitcher Jilyn Ford said.

Junior pitcher Heather Kiefer said even the fruit in Hawaii was incredible.

"The pineapples, bananas and oranges were so sweet," she said. "I don't even like pineapple and I ate pineapple every day we were there."

With this being her first trip to Hawaii, Kiefer embraced the environment of the Aloha state.

"It feels like a different country because so many things are different, even the geographic distribution is different with the mountains, the plants and the animals," Kiefer said.

Spending 14 days together, 24 hours a day would seem like a lot of bonding time. And it is.

"It was like living with 17 sisters for two weeks," Kiefer said. "It really added to the experience."

Dean said he did not want the team to stay in a hotel because it would cost them the opportunity to become closer.

"They're going to find out things about each other during that time period they didn't know before," Dean said.

The team even got a chance to learn a little bit of Hawaiian culture.

"We did the whole Pearl Harbor experience and learned a lot about the World War II background," Kiefer said.

The team also went snorkeling and visited the North Shore to watch the sun set.

"Snorkeling was definitely one of my favorites," Ford said. "We got to see a bunch of different kinds of fish and I think it was part of an old volcano too, which made it awesome."

A monumental moment for the team at the end of the trip was beating the then No. 2 ranked team in the country, the University of Oregon. It was the highest-ranked team that JMU has ever beaten.

"We were going into it expecting a good game from Oregon and hoping just to come out on top," Kiefer said.

Ford said they worked diligently on hitting at their practices before the games.

"We're just taking good at bats, we're being selective at what pitches we're gonna swing at, just trying to get on base any way we can," she said.

Dean joked that it was nice to have a field to practice on since the snow in Harrisonburg has limited the team's field time.

Overall, he believes the experience in Hawaii contributed to the success in the Pepsi Rainbow Wahine Classic championship game against Oregon.

"We had more errors and mistakes in that game, but we were able to overcome it because we were a better team," Dean said.

Both Dean and the players saw the team transform during the duration of their incredible journey.

"We kind of started off the beginning of the season on different pages, but we really progressed as a team and came together," Kiefer said.

CONTACT Gabrielle Smith at smithgf@dukes.jmu.edu.

FOOTBALL

Training day

JMU pro day cut short, as draft hopefuls continue to audition for chance at the NFL



HOLLY WARFIELD / THE BREEZE

Linebacker Stephon Robertson joined former teammates for a pro day Monday.

By RICHARD BOZEK
The Breeze

To be selected in the National Football League Draft is the dream of many, but the destiny of few. On Monday afternoon JMU hosted its NFL pro day, an event that allows pro scouts to visit the university to watch players perform in combine events.

Among the Dukes who participated was two-time Colonial Athletic Association Defensive Player of the Year, linebacker Stephon Robertson, as well as CAA First-Team members running back Dae'Quan Scott, offensive tackle Josh Wells and defensive end Jordan Stanton.

The idea of a pro day is to let potential draft prospects display their abilities in hopes of improving their draft position or at least improve their chances of getting picked up as an undrafted free agent. It also allows players to perform in the comfort of the facilities that they have been working out in for the previous four years, as opposed to the the NFL Scouting Combine, where over 300 prospects participate at a designated location.

Scouts use drills such as the 40-yard dash, shuttle drills, bench press and others to gauge a player's athletic ability specific to the positions that they play.

But the snow that Mother Nature delivered to Harrisonburg on Sunday night affected the pro day.

"I think that the snow really threw some people off," Wells said. The session was shortened, and the players were limited to just the indoor tests such as the vertical leap, broad jump and the bench press, and only one scout was in attendance.

Along with the countless hours the players had put forth the past four years, they also dedicate themselves to training specifically for the combine events.

Wells has been working out with former strength and conditioning coach Jason Riddell in facilities at Memorial Hall.

"I've been out in Nashville, Tennessee training for this, really just working on stuff that will make me more explosive," Robertson said.

Much like Robertson, redshirt-senior running back Dae'quan Scott has been training in Pennsylvania.

In regards to Monday's pro day, Wells and Robertson said that the session "went nicely" and "pretty well." Scott had different feelings. "It could've been better," Scott said. "I've been training the past eight weeks for this and I know the work has paid off, I just wasn't good enough today."

see PRO DAY, page B5

(March 22 - 23)

(1) Connecticut (34-0)

(16) Prairie View (14-17)

(8) Georgia (20-11)

(9) Saint Joseph's (22-9)

(5) NC State (25-7)

(12) BYU (26-6)

(4) Nebraska (25-6)

(13) Fresno State (22-10)

(6) Gonzaga (29-4)

(11) James Madison (28-5)

(3) Texas A&M (24-8)

(14) North Dakota (22-9)

(7) DePaul (27-6)

(10) Oklahoma (18-14)

(2) Duke (27-6)

(15) Winthrop (24-8)

Storrs, CT
March 25Los Angeles, CA
March 24College Station, TX March
25Durham, NC
March 24

March 29

LINCOLN, NE
March 31

March 29

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BLAIR ROSEN / THE BREEZE

BASEBALL (8-11)

Frozen progress

Winter weather having adverse affect on baseball team

By **STEPHEN PROFFITT**
The Breeze

A congregation of JMU baseball players surrounded the pitcher's mound Tuesday as the team was finally able to take the field after snow once again pounded the Valley on Sunday.

"I won't make excuses, it's affected a lot of people, but it is hard," head coach Spanky McFarland said. "When you have some things to work on and you don't have the ability to practice things, that's an issue."

McFarland said the team has missed at least 10 days of on-field practice because of the multiple snow storms that have hit the area over the past few weeks.

"It's hard to get into a rhythm," McFarland said. "If you're feeling good at the plate and you got to wait five or six days to play and during that time you're just getting cage work inside, you kind of lose that good feeling."

Since March 5, the Dukes have had to postpone two games (Virginia Military Institute and Liberty University) while delaying the start of a series against Seton Hall University and

moving Sunday's series finale vs. Cornell University up to 11 a.m. to beat the most recent winter storm. "It doesn't play a big impact," senior third baseman Ty McFarland said. "During the season you're really just taking hacks in the cage and hitting the weight room. If you miss a day here or there of ground balls, it's not going to hurt you."

It could be worse though. Not everything organic is good.

"What really helps us here is the kind of field that we have," Scott Carter, assistant director of events for JMU said. "It's a synthetic turf field with the exception of the pitcher's mound."

The turf field has many advantages over a traditional grass field and it's really showing with all of this winter powder.

"We don't have to wait for it all to melt because it's not grass underneath. We're not going to tear anything up."

Carter said Facilities Management can plow the field because of its synthetic nature.

"It comes in handy for us to be able to play on something like that," Carter said.

While a grass field has the aesthetic beauty, it's a slippery slope for a grounds crew battling an unpredictable winter.

"You got to tarp the whole thing," Carter said of grass. "Of course you can't move the tarp until the snow melts, you can't plow the snow or you're going to tear your tarp so the field we have really helps us be a little more proactive."

JMU is currently 8-11 overall this season with a .297 team batting average. The Dukes travel to St. Johns University this weekend for a three-game series.

"It is what it is, it's frustrating," Spanky said. "I think it shows in our play. I think some of the stuff that we're messing up on like fly balls, fly ball communication. You cannot practice those things in the gym. So there's some aspects of the game you can practice inside and some you can't. Defensively we need some work."

The Dukes have 35 errors on the season and a .954 fielding percentage.

"As long as we don't get another foot of snow on us, we should be good going forward," Carter said.

Just shy of 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, seven players organized to cover the mound with a weathered, purple tarp. After all, it's a team effort.

CONTACT Stephen Proffitt at proffittjs@gmail.com.

PRO DAY | Draft in May

from page B4

Scott and the other handful of JMU prospects had the opportunity to prove themselves again in front of scouts on Tuesday. The Dukes headed to the Elkin Sports Performance Center in Richmond to participate in a pro day hosted by the University of Richmond. Once again they demonstrated their prowess in the indoor tests, but this time they got the chance to show what they can do in field tests.

"We'll see what happens [Tuesday]," Scott said. "I'll be able to perform out on the field, hopefully get a good 40 [yard dash] time."

While posting good results in pro day events is important, it's certainly not the only determinant of whether or not a prospect is drafted.

"The things we do at these aren't

really football, it's more stuff that we have to do," Robertson said. "Scouts also look at our film and all that to see how we really play."

Being prepared mentally while performing in pro days is just as important to being successful as it is to be prepared physically.

"It's really a lot more mental based," Robertson said. "You just got to stay relaxed and keep having fun."

The Dukes prospects will spend the next month and a half before May's NFL Draft training in hopes that their name will be called at Radio City Music Hall in New York City, the site of the draft.

"Just got to keep working and stay focused," Wells said.

CONTACT Richard Bozek at bozekrj@dukes.jmu.edu.

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TOP The team congratulates Gwathmey after her Most Outstanding Player winning performance in the game Sunday. **MIDDLE** The JMU Pep Band will be traveling with the team to Texas for the NCAA tournament. **BOTTOM** Sophomore guard Precious Hall led the team in the first half of the game Sunday with 11 points.

BASKETBALL | 'Bring more national exposure to the university'

from front

mid-major will be eliminated in just the first round.

"Don't know what the thought process is going into that, it's just crazy," Brooks said. "We would have loved to have the opportunity to play against a Bowl Championship Series opponent, and I'm sure they would've too. It's a little surprising."

But the seeding and the distance could prove to have a silver lining. If the Dukes drew a No. 8 or No. 9 seed and won their first round game, they more than likely would've had to play a tough No. 1 seed to advance to the round of 16.

In this case, if the Dukes beat Gonzaga, they'll most likely play No. 3 Texas A&M, the site host. It would surely be another tough game, but likely more winnable than a matchup with one of the top four seeds.

Another possible benefit, expressed by President Jon Alger, is the national exposure JMU will get.

"It's just a tremendous opportunity to bring more national exposure to the university," Alger said. "That's one of the things about a draw like this, people from all over the country are going to see James Madison University. They're going to hear about us and learn about the university."

JMU was required to buy a minimum of 100 initial tickets, which it did. As of Wednesday morning, it had sold 20 tickets, but the Dallas/Fort Worth area Duke Club is working on getting more people together. Because of the distance, the Athletic Ticket Office is not offering any sponsored trips to the game.

The pep band and cheerleaders will also be traveling with the team to Texas.

Minutes after the draw was announced, Brooks said he hadn't yet seen Gonzaga play, but his assistants were already at work gathering film on the Bulldogs.

The West Coast Conference champions finished No. 18 in the final Associated Press Top 25 poll and are entering Sunday's game with a six-game winning streak.

Newman said she has seen Gonzaga play, but isn't fazed. JMU is entering with a five-game winning streak of its own.

"It's definitely a beatable team," Newman said. "Any team's beatable."

If JMU does advance, it will play the winner of Texas A&M vs. No. 14 University of North Dakota, which tips off at 8 p.m. Sunday. That second round game is scheduled for Tuesday.

JMU hasn't made it past the first round in its last four NCAA tournament appearances (1996, 2007, 2010, 2011). The last time it did was 1991, when the Dukes made it to the round of 16 before losing to Clemson University 57-55.

But historically, JMU knows what it's like to see a season's worth of work come to fruition with a championship. Heading into this season, the Dukes had won two of the last four CAA tournaments. But those came back-to-back in 2010 and 2011. In each of the last two seasons, JMU's title hopes were dashed in the semifinals as the

Dukes watched the University of Delaware hoist the trophy twice.

But this season was a clean slate. In the pre-season coaches poll, the Dukes were picked to win the CAA title for the first time since 2010. They had Preseason Player of the Year, guard Kirby Burkholder, who was back for her senior season. They also had redshirt senior forward Nikki Newman back from a broken foot that sidelined her for the majority of last season.

Burkholder's and Newman's experience, mixed with a continually improving, but proven cast around them that went 15-3 in conference play the season before, set the bar for expectations high.

JMU began the 2013-14 campaign with a theme of "WE." The team comes up with a theme each year, a task that Brooks usually assigns to his assistants. But this year, Brooks came up with this year's mantra himself in what he said was five minutes.

"It's been perfect, perfect," Brooks said about the concept.

"WE" stands for multiple things. It can simply be the goal of playing as a team. Or the letters can signify "win everything" or putting "winning over everything." Regardless of how it's perceived, it's clear that the Dukes have morphed into a clear representation of their theme, leading them to another CAA championship.

"We always have each other's backs," red-shirt sophomore guard Jazmon Gwathmey said. "Which makes up for little mistakes that we have on defense or [the] offensive end. We circle the wagon when things are wrong."

Game after game, JMU demonstrated what "WE" meant. Whether it was making the extra pass en route to a CAA-best 75.2 points per game, or playing team defense to limit opponents to a CAA-best 54.8 points per game, it was never about one player.

"You can't win a championship by yourself. So I think that's definitely the reason why we won," Burkholder, the CAA Player of the Year, said. "We played as a team. Especially in our last game [against Delaware], we came together. Team defense led to our offense. Everyone was distributing and playing together."

And yes, it was nice to do it against the two-time defending champion Blue Hens.

"Just being able to beat them in the championship and how we did it just made a statement, and it felt good to be able to do that against Delaware," Burkholder said.

As the clock winds down to the Big Dance this year, JMU will keep doing what it's been doing — adhering to the WE motto and hoping for some of the same results.

"Just prepare like we usually do. I just think we don't need to be anything else but us," Burkholder said. "And that's what's carried us through the whole season thus far. So that's what we need to keep doing."

CONTACT Wayne Epps Jr. at breezesports@gmail.com.

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