

# The Breeze

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## Rapid response

### JMU students make hospital app

By **JULIA SMITH**  
contributing writer

A new software program called Futureline Systems LLC, created with the help of JMU students and that notifies of incoming patients riding in ambulances, could be coming to hospitals around Virginia.

At the heart of the software program is Gaelen Rickard, an emergency medical technician and former George Mason University student. He worked alongside Joseph Reintges and Kevin Lacey, first responders working in Charlottesville. The original program worked like an email system, relaying text-based messages between the ambulance and hospital.

According to Gabriel Giacalone, a sophomore justice studies major and the program's graphic designer, the program will speed up the process of transferring patients from the ambulance to the hospital.

"The patient gets in the ambulance, the EMT sees what is wrong with the person, they type in a few things into the box that they have installed in the

see **AMBULANCE**, page 4

## Dukes fall short to Colgate

JMU football finishes the 2015 season with a 9-3 record



MARK OWEN / THE BREEZE

Redshirt junior linebacker Justin Wellons (left) consoles redshirt senior defensive lineman Alex Mosley after Saturday's game against Colgate.

By **PETER CAGNO**  
The Breeze

On Saturday, 11 JMU football seniors solemnly stood hand-in-hand with their teammates in front of the Marching Royal Dukes and sang the alma mater for the final time. The team was dealt a loss in the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs at Bridgeforth Stadium for the second year in a row.

The loss came at the hands of the Raiders of Colgate University (9-4)

by a score of 44-38.

"We played a very good Colgate team today," JMU head coach Everett Withers said after the game.

After quickly going down 17-0, the No. 5-seeded Dukes buckled down and started to find a rhythm on offense. The Dukes scored three touchdowns on offense in the second quarter to cut the Raiders' lead to just three points. Sophomore quarterback Bryan Schor had a touchdown on the ground and in the air — an 18-yard pass to junior receiver Rashard Davis and a 7-yard run — while junior running back Khalid Abdullah added a 2-yard touchdown rush.

The first JMU lead of the day came with 2:02 to go in the first half when sophomore cornerback Jordan Brown stepped in front of a screen pass from Colgate junior quarterback Jake Melville to intercept the ball and ran it 17 yards into the end zone to give the Dukes a 28-24 lead heading into the halftime break.

All 28 of JMU's first-half points came in the second quarter. The remainder of the contest consisted of the Dukes playing catch-up with the Raiders, as they trailed by a touchdown on two separate occasions and tied it twice. Only at the time of the third six-point advantage for Colgate did the Dukes fail to catch up.

The final go-ahead touchdown for the Raiders came with 9:05 left in the fourth quarter when Melville broke free for a 67-yard rush to set up his offense on the 5-yard line. Melville would end up taking the ball into the end zone two plays later to make the score 44-38.

With 3:06 left in the game, the fate of JMU's season rested on one final play. Schor and the Dukes faced 4th-and-goal from the 3-yard line. A pass intended for junior wide receiver Brandon Ravenel was knocked down by senior defensive back Josh Ford and the Raiders regained possession.

Needing just one first down, the Colgate did just that before

see **PLAYOFFS**, page 10

## Homes for the holidays

Locals enjoy seasonal tour



PHOTOS BY DANIEL STEIN / THE BREEZE

By **NICOLETTE CHUSS**  
contributing writer

Traditions are a staple of the holiday season — and downtown Harrisonburg is no exception to this standard. The Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance hosted its eighth annual Downtown Holiday Tour on Saturday, featuring various locations decoratively adorned for the season.

The idea for this event sprung from the renaissance design committee's desire to further attract people to the downtown area while also featuring diverse architecture and homeowners' unique stories, according to Lauren Huber, Downtown Renaissance's director of resources. The tour initially began solely with the intent to feature homes, specifically those in the Old Town region, a residential area that spans from northeast of JMU to Woodbine Cemetery.

see **HOME**, page 8



LEFT Jack's Hideaway is a speakeasy located above Billy Jack's and Jack Brown's. RIGHT The Joshua Wilson House had traditional holiday decorations that matched the time period of the building itself, the 1800s.

## Imagining the possibilities

President Jon Alger discusses university's future at Faculty Senate meeting

By **EVAN McALLISTER**  
The Breeze

University president Jon Alger attended the semester's final Faculty Senate session Thursday in another bid to increase discourse between JMU's faculty and administration and provide perspective on the university's strategic vision.

The address was Alger's first at a Faculty Senate meeting since early 2014, when he spoke on the topic of benefits for same-sex partners of university employees.

Thursday, Alger focused heavily on the university's progress so far, alluding frequently to the "Madison Plan," or the university's self-professed goals of becoming an "engaged university." Since the plan's inception, this phrase has been frequently used by university officials speaking about JMU's future plans.

"We got feedback from thousands of people both on and off campus; this helped us to develop the Madison Plan," Alger said. "Now, we're trying to

implement the plan and assess it. Nearly everyone in this room has been involved in that process, and that process is continuing."

The enactment of the strategic plan comes at a pivotal moment in the university's history, according to Alger. The university's identity has changed dramatically in the past few decades, transforming from a small teaching college to one that is slowly becoming nationally known.

"What gives us a distinctive identity?" Alger asked. "We talked about the fact that we started as an all-women's teachers' college, and we're clearly not that [anymore] — we still have a tremendous College of Education, but we're much broader than that now; we're not a small liberal arts college, but we're also not a research-one institution with programs that overshadow the graduate experience."

In addition to Alger's focus on the university's image, Thursday's session also featured a presentation on the "Madison brand." Andy Perrine, the



ALEXIS MILLER / THE BREEZE

Jon Alger highlights JMU's decades of growth and future spending plans at Thursday's meeting.

see **FUTURE**, page 3



### BREW BABY BREW

Students learn how to make beer in class

LIFE | 7



### BROWN LEADS JMU OVER HERD

Junior guard scores 30 points in winning game

SPORTS | 10

### TODAY WILL BE Showers

54° / 30°  
Chance of rain: 50%





## Let there be light

Students begin Hanukkah celebrations with lighting of JMU's first on-campus menorah



DANIEL STEIN / THE BREEZE

Adam Shor, a junior sport and recreation management major, lights the university's first menorah Sunday evening on the Madison Union patio. The ceremony, which was also attended by President Jon Alger and Harrisonburg Mayor Chris Jones, aimed to share Jewish culture and promote diversity within the JMU and Harrisonburg communities.

By **ALYSSA MILLER**  
The Breeze

On Sunday evening, many in the Jewish community at JMU and around Harrisonburg came together on the Madison Union patio to celebrate the first night of Hanukkah with another first: the university's first-ever on-campus menorah lighting.

The event, hosted by JM Jews Chabad, began at 6 p.m. and featured the lighting of a giant menorah followed by a reception with traditional Hanukkah foods including latkes and doughnuts. A large crowd attended the event including President Jon Alger, Mark Warner, JMU's senior vice president of student affairs and university planning, and Harrisonburg Mayor Chris Jones.

"I'm really happy that they came," Kara Kwart, a sophomore marketing major and the president of JM Jews Chabad, said. "It's really nice to know that they support

what we're doing and that they want to be involved with it."

The ceremony was led by Rabbi Mordy Leimdorfer, co-director of Chabad of Shenandoah Valley, who surprised Alger, Warner and Jones by inviting them to light the menorah using a large flaming torch known as the "shamash," or helper candle.

"I was hoping that I didn't drop the fire," Jones said. "But it was very exciting. And I'm glad that I was able to participate."

The road to getting a menorah on campus was a long process and involved Chabad applying for a contingency request from the Student Government Association and undergoing an approval process.

"The club or the organization comes, asks for the money, they have a couple meetings with us and then they present the idea to the finance committee, then they present the idea to the SGA senate as a whole, and that's when they decide as a large group if it passes or if it doesn't pass,"

Vanina Waingortin, a senior international affairs major and a member of the SGA and JM Jews Chabad, said.

The SGA allotted \$2,150 for JM Jews Chabad to host the event. According to Waingortin, the money was intended to educate the JMU and Harrisonburg communities about Hanukkah and to promote diversity and inclusiveness.

"We like to celebrate diversity, and we just were trying to be as inclusive as possible and make it a big campus event so people learn more. That is the ... expected outcome," Waingortin said. "It is in no way trying to convert people, in no way trying to make everyone celebrate Hanukkah; it is just the festival of lights."

Alger agreed with the SGA's goal, adding that it is important for JMU to come together for celebrations.

"I think it's just important for us all to be together to celebrate, to talk about what unites us," Alger said.

see **MENORAH**, page 4

## FUTURE | Out-of-state student population declines

from front

associate vice president of university communications and marketing, spoke about JMU in an advertorial sense.

"We are an evolving brand," Perrine said. "When you look at some of our brother and sister institutions in the state, we're quite an adolescent brand, [but] we've almost tripled our size in a generation and a half. In 1977, there were 7,700 students here. Now, there's 21,000."

According to Perrine, JMU's success in maintaining its student-faculty ratio and overall satisfaction during the past decades is almost unprecedented in its success, especially as the university attempts to move from a state to a nationally or internationally known institution.

"The fact that we've got such a wide array of options available for both student and faculty, as well as [staying in touch], makes us a hybrid institution," Perrine said. "That really is our brand."

However, despite the optimistic outlook, some faculty have expressed concerns about how certain aspects of JMU's evolution might adversely affect its tuition.

"I see a lot of discussion in the media about the cost of college tuition. Has that been a point of consideration?" Kevin Giovanetti, a professor in the physics department, asked.

His question appeared to hit home with other members of the faculty, and was addressed immediately by Perrine.

"This is an essential consideration in a brand — price," Perrine said. "It's a huge consideration, especially considering our out-of-state yields. Once we got over \$30,000 in out-of-state [tuition charges], we began to level off, and now that we're over \$35,000, our out-of-state went from 33 to 17 percent. We're no longer the deal we used to be, we used to be cheaper than in-state."

Perrine was echoed by Alger, who mentioned that this kind of price-balancing is an important consideration for JMU's Board of Directors every year.

In addition to the issues brought up by Alger, Perrine and Giovanetti, the Faculty Senate took time to honor JMU's most recent set of faculty mini-grant awardees. The mini-grant program started in February of this year, and quickly grew in scope and funding due to its overwhelming popularity among faculty. Winning members receive anywhere from \$500 to \$4,000 to fund a personal project that resonates with JMU's goal of engagement — through learning, civic relations or the university's surrounding community.

This semester's mini-grants program was also given a significantly increased budget over the last one.

"After looking over the report from last year and meeting with president Alger, I hoped to get at least \$10,000 at the beginning of this year," Mark Piper, a professor of philosophy and religion, said. "I was told, to my delight, that we were going to get \$35,000. By the time we finished looking through all the proposals, that was \$36,000. I think the administration's commitment is worthy of appreciation."

However, the conversation quickly returned to other matters, Alger's address ending amid discussion among faculty about JMU's strengths and weaknesses compared to other universities. As it has in previous Faculty Senate discussions, the conclusion seemed to be that financial considerations were foremost among JMU's strengths.

"Financial aids and scholarships — when you look compared to other pure institutions, I think they're the single greatest lead we have in many respects," Alger said, going on to cite other areas where he wanted to make improvements in near future. "Support for the faculty, having more faculty chairs, research, things that do require more resources — this is an area where we do need significant attention."

Thursday marked the last Faculty Senate session for 2015, with certain discussions from November deferred to next semester.

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## SGA limits song choice

A cappella group asked to sing secular music at Unity Tree ceremony



ALEXIS MILLER / THE BREEZE

Many students gathered to participate in the Unity Tree lighting ceremony on Friday evening. The ceremony included speeches by President Jon Alger and SGA representatives, and performances by multiple a cappella groups.

By **GRACE THOMPSON**  
contributing writer

Into Hymn, the only Christian a cappella group on JMU's campus, was invited to sing at this year's annual Unity Tree lighting ceremony hosted by the Student Government Association Friday.

"We spent a lot of time and effort to prepare an arrangement of the song 'Mary, Did You Know?' and were excited as we were invited this year," Michaela Kim, a senior education major and member of Into Hymn, said.

However, Into Hymn declined the SGA's offer upon learning earlier in the week that the group wouldn't be able to sing its rehearsed piece because it represented a specific religion.

"We represent the Christian faith; that is what our music is all about," Kim said.

According to Kim, SGA then gave the group a list of secular songs they would be able to sing instead.

Kim said that the list of approved songs emailed to Into Hymn included "Frosty the Snowman," "Winter Wonderland," "Jingle Bells" and "Baby, It's Cold Outside."

When asked to comment on the decision, the SGA leadership team provided a statement highlighting the intent of the tree lighting.

"In regards to the Tree Lighting event this past Friday evening, we want to ensure that everyone understands the event's main purpose is to bring together the entire student body before the start of finals for an evening of entertainment and food," the statement says.

SGA asked that all other questions be directed to Bill Wyatt, JMU's senior director of communications and university spokesman.

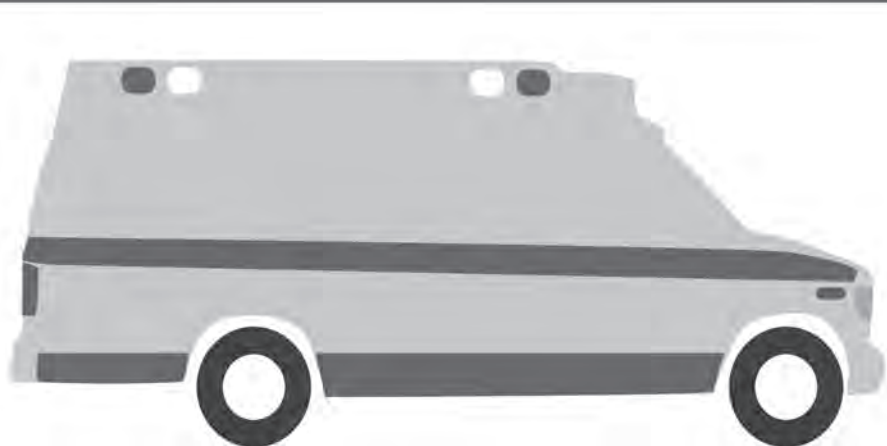
Wyatt said SGA didn't have much to do with this decision, as the tree lighting was a university-sponsored event.

see **SONG**, page 4

# AMBULANCE | Program to reduce stress among EMT and hospital staff

## FUTURELINE SYSTEMS LLC

- In preliminary stage in Augusta Health in Fishersville, Virginia
- Expected to start being sold to other hospitals in the next three to six months
- Hopes to be remedy for the hectic transfer from ambulances to hospital rooms



KELSEY HARDING / THE BREEZE

from front

ambulance and then, on the hospital's end, they have a live feed of every ambulance coming in," Giacalone said.

Giacalone sees the program, which has been worked on for about a year and a half, as a remedy for the hectic transfer from ambulances to hospital rooms.

"It shows who's coming and what time they're coming in so the doctors and nurses know what's going on with the patient the moment they are taken out of the ambulance," Giacalone said.

Futureline Systems has been pitched to multiple hospitals who have shown interest; however, it's still undergoing testing. Currently, it's being used in a preliminary stage in Augusta Health in Fishersville, Virginia. Giacalone expects that the program will start being sold to other hospitals in the next three to six months.

"It's hard to say when the program will be implemented because it's a small business," Giacalone said. "We're selling software to hospitals that, some of which, could potentially be pretty big hospitals. It could just die tomorrow but I don't think things look that way."

According to Shannon Swenson, a senior biology major, the current system used for information communication involves an EMT calling directly to the charge nurse in the hospital's emergency department and passing on basic information. When the patient arrives, the EMT then gives a more detailed report.

"I think a lot of the stress could be taken off the charge nurse," Swenson said. "The charge has a million things to do in the [emergency department] and then they have their phone ringing off the hook with squads coming in."

For Swenson, the biggest concern about the program is making sure that it's easy for both the emergency medical staff and the hospital staff. Swenson said that when performing patient care, sometimes it's easier to call the charge nurse.

Daniel Blevins, a senior economics major, did marketing and beta testing for a social polling app. While the app didn't get off the ground, he found the experience extremely valuable, and offered his own insight into the hospital software.

"I spoke to one of the students working on the software and I loved how ambitious they were about their product," Blevins said. "The biggest challenge for them is to be able to prove to hospitals that their product will work 100 percent of the time since people's lives are on the line."

Once smaller hospitals start using the program, the ultimate objective is for larger hospitals, especially the University of Virginia's, to install it and one day see the technology as standard for ambulances.

"From the looks of it, all the hospitals seem to like it and see the value in it," Giacalone said. "We hope our technology will help hospitals save them money but also save lives."

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# SONG | Decision disappoints members



ALEXIS MILLER / THE BREEZE

Into Hymn, a Christian a cappella group, refused to sing at the ceremony when its religious song request was denied.

from page 3

"JMU is a public university, so because it was a school-sponsored event, the song choice needed to be secular," Wyatt said. "The university made the decision to only sing secular songs. SGA merely helps the university coordinate the details."

According to Wyatt, there is a distinction between a Christmas tree and a Unity Tree, the latter of which refers to the tree on the Quad.

"It wasn't a Christmas celebration," Wyatt said. "It was an event intended to bring the community together in a celebration of community."

However, Kim said she doesn't agree with the fact that the event is secular.

"Unity is supposed to represent everyone and, as a Christian, I don't feel represented," Kim said.

Madison Beebe, a sophomore international affairs major, believes the Unity Tree is still representative of Christmas despite what the university has said.

"The Unity Tree should be referred to as a Christmas tree because that is what it is; if it were not about Christmas, it would be done at a different time of year," Beebe said.

Kenia Olivo, a junior sports and recreation management major, attended the tree lighting and agrees with Wyatt that it was about unity, not religion.

"I think the event was more about our community coming together," Olivo said.

According to Kim, it took Into Hymn nearly three weeks to get the arrangement for and learn "Mary, Did You Know?." Since Christian music is all it has readily available to perform, Kim said the group didn't have enough time to prepare a secular piece on such short notice, nor did it have any interest in doing so.

"Unity is supposed to represent everyone and, as a Christian, I don't feel represented."

**Michaela Kim**  
senior education major and member of Into Hymn

"It takes a lot of time and effort to find a song, get it arranged, have everyone memorize their part and polish it all to have it performance-ready," Kim said.

Beebe didn't think it was fair to require that Into Hymn sing a secular song.

"The group should have been able to sing Christian songs because we are in the Christmas season, which is about Christ," Beebe said.

Olivo agreed, adding that she didn't think the decision helped any other religions feel more fairly treated.

"Taking one religion's representation away doesn't make it better for the rest," Olivo said.

In the end, Kim said that her group has no ill feelings toward anyone involved in the decision-making process, and that the Into Hymn members understand the decision.

"We are not upset or angry, but are just disappointed in the situation, and how it did not align with JMU's values of diversity," Kim said.

Into Hymn has one more performance before the end of this semester, at Operation Santa Claus, which is taking place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday at Wilson Hall.

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# MENORAH | Ceremony educates community

from page 3

"It was just great to celebrate the diversity together, of the community."

Kim Villamera, a junior hospitality major, attended the event even though she is not Jewish because she likes "exploring other people's cultures." Villamera feels the event met its goal of educating the community.

"It was pretty cool. That big menorah was a sight to see," Villamera said. "And I was very surprised at the crowd. I very much underestimated the Jewish community around here, and how large it is."

In addition to educating the rest of the JMU community, Kwart added that the menorah was intended to allow Jewish students to celebrate their culture.

"A lot of people noticed that there's not a menorah on campus, and while we do have the Unity Tree, a lot of people want to be unified by something that's familiar to them," Kwart said. "So, for the Jewish students, that's the menorah ... a lot of other universities and I think even the White House has a menorah, so it's just a great time of year to display the menorah ... and make everyone happy and spread the light."

Leimdorfer agreed with Kwart, adding that the event aimed to provide a sense of unity and support for the local Jewish community.

"You know, being a minority, sometimes you can feel alone, you feel, maybe, ashamed of showing that you're Jewish, maybe you don't feel confident enough," Leimdorfer said.

Leimdorfer said the event succeeded in uniting the JMU community.

"It was amazing seeing everyone gathering together, seeing a menorah on the JMU campus," Leimdorfer said. "The main, main feeling that I feel is that ... the Jewish students feel they are not alone."

Throughout the celebration, the overarching theme of "light in the darkness" was mentioned repeatedly.

Leimdorfer told a story about a man staying in a house and having to search for a lightbox when the power went out. Although the man ran into many obstacles, he eventually discovered that the obstacles were in fact tools in disguise, available to help him



DANIEL STEIN / THE BREEZE

During the ceremony, Rabbi Mordy Leimdorfer surprised President Jon Alger, Mark Warner and Mayor Chris Jones by asking them to help light the menorah's candles.

achieve his goals.

"The message of the story is that, often enough, we find ourself in a room, in an environment, in a reality surrounded by all the necessary tools to be successful to achieve success, to get what we're looking for," Leimdorfer said.

Kwart explained the modern significance of Hanukkah at the start of the event, reminding the crowd to celebrate finding good in the world.

"We're celebrating that light prevailed over darkness so many years ago, and that it still does today," Kwart said. "By being here, you're helping to show that. It's important for us to share this positivity in all times, especially now. And, please, let's ... keep the miracle going by passing on the flame for good."

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### JUST JMU THINGS

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## Trying to pet the Quad cat



KELSEY HARDING / THE BREEZE

KEVAN HULLIGAN | the war room

# Good night, and good luck



It's a strange thing writing a goodbye column. In some aspects, it's a little bit like writing your own obituary; hyperbole, I know, but at the same time, it's emblematic of the ending of one life and the beginning of another. My life as a student is coming to an end, and my life as one of those fancy "adults" I've been hearing so much about begins.

Usually these kinds of articles are an exercise in cliché. This is usually because writing about one's departure from college life is a strange thing to do when you're right in the moment of it. Reflection and time are needed to really get the full grasp of the situation. Ultimately, I'll probably step into some clichés before the end of this. Despite that, I'll do my best to give an account of my college experience and say my piece before I dip out.

I came here as a transfer student after getting an associate degree in community college. At first, I'll wholeheartedly admit, I was terrified; dropping into a new town with new people was hard for me. I was still somewhat in my shell socially, and I had no idea where I was going to start out.

In the end, JMU welcomed me with open arms. I've met friends here that I'll have for the rest of my life. I've had experiences that have fundamentally changed who I am as a person. I've had some of the best conversations about life, the universe and everything since I've come here.

Then I found *The Breeze*. I would've never expected the staff to be as kind and welcoming as they were when I first approached them about being a columnist. I'd always liked the idea of being an opinion writer; figures like Roger Ebert, Dalton Trumbo and Hunter S. Thompson have always been inspirations to me. Yet, it was working with the staff at *The Breeze* that helped me develop my

talents as a writer and better construct my arguments. My editor and fellow column writers are some of the best and brightest out there, and I'm sure they'll be out doing great things in no time at all.

If you told me before I went to college that I would be co-hosting my own political talk show on the radio, I would've asked if you were hallucinating. Yet, here I am, getting the chance to go on the air with WXJM and my co-host Nahla Aboutabl to discuss the news of the day. WXJM encouraged me every step of the way and made me feel like a part of their community the moment I first took to the airwaves. They do excellent work there and I can't thank them enough for giving me an excellent opportunity. Nahla will continue the show after I graduate, and I know she'll absolutely rock it.

JMU was everything I hoped it would be and more. My time here has made me more confident in myself as a person and a writer. I can't thank the community enough for everything they've done for me. Through the good times and bad, the emails of support and the hate mail, from the lonely nights to the nights of raucous fun — it's all been worth it.

As the doors of The War Room close for the last time, let's leave with Frank Sinatra's tune, "My Way:"

"I've loved, I've laughed and cried  
I've had my fill, my share of losing

And now, as tears subside,  
I find it all so amusing  
To think I did all that  
And may I say, not in a shy way  
Oh no, oh no — not me, I did it my way  
For what is a man, what has he got?  
If not himself, then he has naught  
To say the things he truly feels and not the words of one who kneels  
The record shows I took the blows and did it my way."

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

RACHEL PETTY | Petty for your thoughts

# Adderall abuse

## The popular prescription drug is highly misused



"Want an Adderall?" is something I hear multiple times a week. As college students, it's likely that we've all either taken Adderall, been

offered Adderall or at least know what it is.

The drug is prescribed to people with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder or narcolepsy, but has become the study drug of our generation and is continuing to gain popularity among people who don't really need it.

Some students feel as though they need Adderall in order to study or write a paper. They take it once from a friend or connection with a prescription and are hooked.

Why are people taking Adderall when they don't really need it? If you can study for a test or get a paper done without assistance from a drug, why wouldn't you?

People I've talked to claim that Adderall helps them get their work done faster and more efficiently. Is this an unfair advantage?

If someone truly believes that they need Adderall, shouldn't they go to a doctor to get it prescribed rather than buy it from a friend?

People who are actually prescribed Adderall may be selling it in order to make some extra money or gain popularity among their friends. These people should be keeping their prescriptions to themselves.

Another popular use for Adderall is to wake people up to go out. Mixing a stimulant like Adderall with alcohol can be extremely dangerous. It's a Schedule II drug, which is why it's a controlled substance with high potential for abuse and addiction.

People have come to act surprised or even shocked if I mention I haven't used Adderall and don't want to.

"Are you serious?" "Why not?" and "How do you get your work done?" are just some of the responses I've heard.

Yes, I'm serious. Why not? I don't feel the need to put unnecessary prescription drugs in my body. How do I get my work done? I sit down, focus and do it.

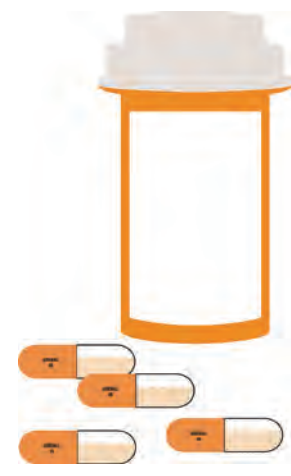
It may sound hard to believe, but people get their work done all the time without using study drugs. If you feel like you seriously need a prescription, see a doctor rather than using someone else's.

It's much safer and efficient if you have your body rather than taking what you can get.

What about using Adderall with alcohol? Since Adderall is a stimulant and alcohol is a depressant, the two compete with each other and can cause a higher risk for alcohol poisoning or heart problems.

You may want to think twice about your response the next time someone offers you an Adderall pill. Are the risks really worth it?

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



KELSEY HARDING / THE BREEZE

## 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](http://breezejmu.org)

A "what-were-you-thinking?" dart to myself for putting off all of this work that's suddenly due.

From a senior who most definitely knows better but doesn't do better.

A "thanks-for-being-nice" pat to the girl who let my friend and me cut her in the attendance line.

From someone who didn't feel like waiting 10 minutes to let my professor know that I was in class.

An "I-respect-the-riot-in-the-war-room" pat to opinion writers Nahla and Kevan for perfectly addressing the faults in the rhetoric surrounding Islamic radicalism and terrorism.

From the sports desk.

A "you're-ruining-my-day" dart to *The Breeze* for only producing one paper a week.

From a junior whose favorite part of every Monday is picking up a copy.

A "get-your-facts-straight" dart to the opinion columnist who consistently writes incredibly liberal political opinions and demonizes anyone who disagrees with them.

From a senior who actually does research and doesn't just accept everything the media says.

An "I-appreciate-you" pat to the Route 8 bus driver.

From a Sunchase resident.

A "really?" dart to SGA for prohibiting religious songs at the tree-lighting ceremony.

From a Duke who doesn't see the point in putting up a Christmas tree if you're worried about offending non-Christians and would've loved to hear some *Silent Night* or *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*.

A "thanks-a-lot" dart to the towing company for being inconsistent and towing my girlfriend's car last night.

From a tired Forest resident who didn't need that this morning.

A "come-on" dart to Parking Services for almost rear-ending me.

From an annoyed junior.

## 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.

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## The Breeze

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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

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MATT MURPHY | *The Breeze*

# Is the U.S. becoming *desensitized* to mass shootings?



According to the Congressional Research Service, domestic mass shootings have been noticeably on the rise in the recent past.

This is obviously a terrifying and gruesome trend that's left people in this country hot under the collar regarding the gun control debate, among other things. A commonly shared sentiment is that with so many mass shootings occurring, people are becoming desensitized to the concept of a mass shooting all together. It's argued that this places us in a dangerous frame of mind that leans toward a

swifter acceptance of mass shootings. Concerned and vocal, many people condemn the increasing prevalence of this "new norm."

This idea certainly appears logical and is tempting to take on. But the question that seems to not be asked often is: "Really?"

Are we really, as a country, becoming so used to mass shootings occurring within our nation's borders that we no longer care as much as we would have a while ago when they were less frequent? Are we truly being desensitized by the pure quantity of mass shooting events to a point where they aren't jarring us as much as they should?

People seem to forward the idea that the nation can only grieve so much, and a high volume of mass shootings means that the intensity of this shock and sadness is often watered down.

It's undeniable that having so many cases means we're less likely to focus on one over another in hindsight, but this is not analogous to being "desensitized." Though people may be less sensitive to the quantity of shootings, people are extremely sensitive to the repercussions of mass shootings holistically.

If you take a step back and examine the culture, I would argue that we're becoming

more sensitized to mass shootings.

The media have turned these violent shootings into a constant analysis and breaking down of the root of the problem (though often sensationalized to an inappropriate degree). This subsequently leads to people not only having stronger reactions to each tragedy, but also taking sides to argue why there are so many shootings and what we can do to stop them. Social media (something that wasn't around decades ago when mass shootings were less frequent) is filled with both thoughts and prayers for the victims, as well as outrage regarding the state of the country. This means that before you go home to family dinner and discuss the tragedy that you saw on the news that day, countless people on social media sites have already exposed their own opinions on the tragedy to everyone at that virtual dinner table.

Though higher shooting frequency means there's immediately less of a shock factor that it did occur, there seems to only be increased public outcry and shock regarding why and how it occurred.

As mass shootings move from rare to frequent happenings, people might actually be paying more attention to each one. For whichever legislation, moral ideology or safety protocols a person supports, each mass shooting is an important factor in framing that. The sweeping idea that people in the U.S. are becoming desensitized in itself is very dangerous, and even reinforces comments like, "Another shooting, what else is new?"

All of these trends are forcing people to pay attention and thoughtfully examine mass shootings in greater depth — a depth that breeds awareness and sensitivity each time a tragedy of that caliber takes place.

Matt Murphy is a junior intelligence analysis major. Contact Matt at [murph4ma@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:murph4ma@dukes.jmu.edu).

BRIANA ELLISON | *off topic*

## Truth and circumstance

*Political candidates must make an effort to fact-check their own policies and statements*



With the 2016 election season in full swing, we're finding ourselves overwhelmed with political information. Every day we're bombarded with a new rally for a candidate, a new poll or a new debate.

The 2016 election is undoubtedly the most important election in recent history, as our world has begun to change drastically. It's imperative — now more than ever — that we demand leaders and politicians to use factual information.

In the past few political debates, many of the candidates either flubbed their answers or touted completely false information. Of course, unless you're someone who's heavily politically

minded and knew their answers were false when you heard them, their truth values didn't become evident until after the debate was over.

As the citizens of this country, we should demand appropriate, factual information from our political leaders. Additionally, we should educate ourselves, and not rely on news outlets after the facts.

To explain this further, I want to abandon party lines right now. I don't want anyone reading this to be influenced by their own party affiliations, and in this article, I definitely won't be influenced by mine.

Aside from the news outlets such as MSNBC and CNN, there are a number of organizations and websites dedicated to fact-checking statements from political leaders. You have sites like FactCheck.org, which not only answers questions from users who believe a statement was false, but also checks statements from the political debates.

Then you have PolitiFact.com, which has a convenient "Truth-o-meter" that measures the truthfulness of statements from all political candidates.

According to PolitiFact.com, over the course of their campaigns, candidates Ben Carson, Donald Trump and Ted Cruz's statements have been mostly false, while Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush have maintained statements that are half true or half false. Only candidate John Kasich's statements have been overwhelmingly true, whether you agree with them or not.

Alternatively, candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders maintain overwhelmingly true statements, while Martin O'Malley's have mainly been half true.

From perusing this site, and the one I mentioned earlier, you stumble upon a terrifying trend. There are certain candidates — Carson and Trump mainly — who continue to throw around "facts" that are glaringly false or completely made up. Our political climate has become solely about triumph and candidates are now neglecting truthfulness, especially on policies that don't align with their political stances.

The fact that our political leaders believe they can say whatever they want in order to gain power is disheartening and disgusting. We shouldn't allow people to occupy a leadership position

under the guise of false information.

What's even more troubling is that the candidates and their campaigns don't fact-check their claims. It's sickening to know there are people out there content with preaching false information, with no penchant for the truth.

You'd think that in a competition to become the most powerful individual in this country, we could at least trust our leaders to disseminate accurate information. Party identity shouldn't be the motivating force for politicians to be dishonest.

We should hold them accountable and not allow them to enter a race if they refuse to educate themselves on the truth-value of basic policies, actions and general happenstances of our country.

I don't mean to undermine the news outlets and other sites that are helpful in fact-checking political debates and rallies after they happen. But this is the problem. We shouldn't have to sit through an entire debate being bombarded with information we're unsure is true. With this phenomenon, we can assume that our candidates go into these political instances uneducated or uncaring about the reality of the policies they discuss.

I always find it mind-blowing when, the day after a political debate, we're given articles that tell us how many of the candidates statements were just plain wrong. By being politicians, they're some of the primary individuals dealing with these policies and actions.

What does it say about our political system if the politicians creating the policies aren't even fully aware of the effects they've had on the country?

As the constituents who put these candidates into power, we should strive to educate ourselves as well, so we can pinpoint statements that are true and false once they're touted. We shouldn't allow ourselves to be so blinded by party affiliations that we neglect to acknowledge politicians making an honest effort to be truthful, and those simply trying to be deceiving.

Regardless of their own party affiliations, the candidates themselves need to put more time into making an honest effort in being truthful about what they say. There's nothing admirable — whether you side with them

or not — about being dishonest or false in order to gain votes. We as a country shouldn't only refuse to be misled, but avoid misleading others.

So, to the men and women who want to run this country, I say this: represent yourselves in an appropriate and truthful manner. You have more resources and information at your disposal than many of us in this country. I think it isn't too much to ask that if I vote for you to run my country, I should at least be reassured that you know the reality of the policies, actions and events occurring, as opposed to disseminating fabricated information.

Briana Ellison is a junior media arts and design major. Contact Briana at [ellisobr@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:ellisobr@dukes.jmu.edu).



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# Tapping into the science of beer



SAM TAYLOR / THE BREEZE

Felipe Melivilu, a senior engineering and media arts and design double major, checks on the fermentation process. The brewery program includes two three-credit courses, a starting lecture and a practicum.

ENGR 498 is an advanced topics engineering course that teaches students about the brewing process

By **HOLLY WARFIELD**  
contributing writer

Two white counters lined a narrow room located in the basement of the Health and Human Services building. To the left, darkroom supplies were scattered across a white surface. To the right, three 14-gallon metal kettles sat in a row, reflecting the fluorescent ceiling lights. A loud clank resounded through the small space as Professor Steven Harper lifted the lid off each kettle and leaned over to peek inside.

"We share the space with the darkroom," Harper said. "It created our initial tongue-in-cheek name for our first brew, which was Darkroom Experimental Ale."

The brewery engineering program is a section of ENGR 498, an advanced topics engineering course. It began as a project-based class in the fall of 2014 when Harper partnered with Brothers Craft Brewing. The local brewery gave students the opportunity to design and propose a more efficient cooling system for Brothers' small-scale facility.

After the success of the project, Harper worked with students to create a functioning brewery so that the class could learn what happens at each stage of the brewing process in a hands-on learning environment. This semester, the program functions as two separate three-credit courses starting with a general lecture class and ending with a practicum.

During one class session earlier this semester, professor Sam Morton walked into room 301 in HHS. The four students enrolled in the lecture class sat around the six-sided table placed in the center of the small space. Morton dove straight into his lesson for the day: *Humulus Lupulus*, otherwise known as hops.

He picked up a small plastic bag filled with wet, dark green buds, which he called whole hops. He stuck his nose inside the bag and took in a deep inhale before passing it on to the student beside him.

"Ah, that smells good," Morton said as he released his breath.

As he explained the different types of hops, Morton's dry erase marker glided across the whiteboard, leaving behind equations and bulleted lists for the students to copy into their notebooks.

According to Harper, the lecture class allows students to learn about the brewing process from the grain all the way to the tap.

After students complete the semester-long lecture course, they can move on to the practicum portion of the program, led by Harper. This section incorporates the practical application of the information learned in the lecture class. Students are required to observe and work with a local brewery, brew a practice batch of beer, which is thrown out before fermentation, and finally put their original beer

recipe through the entire brewing and fermentation process.

Harper hopes that the beer engineering program will continue to grow throughout the engineering department as well as across other disciplines such as biology and marketing. The brewery will be relocated next semester, which Harper expects will benefit the program in terms of lab space and expansion.

"We give them the book smarts of what's going on and then we give them the hands-on experience," Harper said.

Felipe Melivilu, a senior engineering and media arts and design double major, brewed his original recipe for the class earlier this semester. He bought ingredients from the Downtown Wine and Gourmet store and spent over five hours malting, mashing and boiling in the basement brewery before taking his product to the fermenter. He decided to go with a stout beer and named it Sepia Stout, holding on to the darkroom theme.

Because the brewery in HHS is not considered a food-safe lab, Melivilu wasn't able to taste his final product. However, he was pleased with the strong coffee aroma of the brew.

"It's a lot of work to get something that's good," Melivilu said. "It felt more real world than just doing a project in a classroom."

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# To the moon and back

JMU professor reflects on her tattoo and relationship with husband



SAM TAYLOR / THE BREEZE

Aaron Ludwig (left) with his wife, biology professor Patrice Ludwig. Aaron designed a sun tattoo to reflect Patrice's sunny personality.

By **ALISON GIPS**  
contributing writer

Picture concentric circles, hollow with a line in the center. Around the edges, flames of yellow, orange and red. This describes the tattoo of Patrice Ludwig, a biology professor at JMU.

"You can almost envision it how an eclipse would be," Patrice said.

The idea for the tattoo can be credited to her husband, Aaron Ludwig.

"I was talking to my boyfriend Aaron at the time and I said, 'I'm going to get my nose pierced,' and he said, 'Don't do that,'" Patrice said. "So I said, 'Well then I'm going to cut and dye my hair,' and he said, 'Don't do that.'"

Her playful threats went back and forth a few more times.

"He then came to me a couple of days later and handed me this piece of artwork and said, 'You should get this tattoo, I drew it for you,'" Patrice said.

Ludwig willingly accepted the kind gesture despite the early stage of the relationship.

"He tried to think of something that reflected my personality and the sun was one of those things," Patrice said. "It was very touching."

It hurt "terribly," but was overall worth the pain. The tattoo itself is on her lower back; a place that hadn't been popular, according to Patrice, for one to get a tattoo in the '90s. What she hadn't pieced together was the irony of the tattoo placement.

"My dad, who's also a scientist, and also has a dry sense of humor said, 'Oh my gosh, why did you put the sun rising over your moon?'" Patrice said.

She's come to terms with the placement and still likes to laugh about it to this day.

"You kind of just forget it's back there," Patrice said.

As an alumna of the JMU class of '96 herself, she chose to stick with her roots as a Duke and teach what she loved: biology. Teaching introductory biology courses in addition to upper-level ecology classes, a drones class and some inter-professional classes, while time consuming, is very rewarding. Patrice brings her quirky and outgoing personality to the classroom.

"She's a cool teacher," Trish Brown, a junior anthropology major, said. "She wants everyone to think critically and apply the material we learn in class to everyday life."

She is constantly making jokes and creating a very comfortable environment for everyone."

Aaron went to speak to a class at JMU for young people starting businesses in 1995. His struggle to find the classroom where the speech was held turned out to benefit the both of them. Patrice escorted him to the classroom, they got to talking, one thing led to another and they eventually began dating.

Although they had gone to a Christmas party with some friends together, their first true date was snowboarding at the Massanutten Resort.

As the owner of a ski shop and as an individual who taught snowboarding and skiing lessons, Aaron had much more experience on the slopes.

"She completely sucked — it was kind of fun," Aaron said.

After many more slipping and sliding ski dates and years of dating, they booked a trip to the Bahamas for a spontaneous wedding.

"We sort of eloped, but not really — 60 people came to the Bahamas for the wedding [in 2000]. It was really fun," Patrice said.

Since getting married, Patrice has finished up her master's degree in biology at JMU, while Aaron has tackled some projects of his own.

After running a ski shop for 15 years, he decided he wanted to do something different.

"One day, I had a pretty crappy day at work and I just reached out to my buddy and said, 'Man, I want to do something else,' just kind of looking to him for advice," Aaron said.

"He then said, 'Why don't we just open a bar together?'"

This sparked the opening of the renowned Jack Brown's Beer and Burger Joint in 2009.

"We had so much fun with Jack Brown's, so other than just beer and burgers we wanted to stretch our creativity on other things, so that's how Billy Jacks was born [in 2011]."

When Aaron doesn't have his hands full with two restaurants and Patrice isn't off teaching, they care for their three daughters, ages 4, 7 and 9.

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# Culture calendar

Local arts and entertainment happenings from Dec. 6-19

By REBECCA JOSEPHSON | *The Breeze*

## Dancescapes

Thursday, Dec. 10 - Saturday, Dec. 12 at 8 p.m.  
Sunday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m.

Forbes Mainstage Theatre  
Tickets: \$11 for students

JMU's premier dance ensemble, Virginia Repertory Dance Company, will perform contemporary choreography by nationally and internationally-acclaimed guest artists in its annual production of Dancescapes. Choreographers include Alice Howes (a Virginia Rep alumna), John Dixon, Courtney Patterson White, and New York choreographer Pamela Pietro. The company will present pieces by artistic director Shane O'Hara, dance faculty member Ryan Corriston, and Danah Bella. Rounding out the program will be a work by Laurie Eisenhower, artistic director of Eisenhower Dance, whose "intelligently crafted repertoire" has been praised by Dance Magazine.



## Holiday Moonlight Carriage Rides

Friday, Dec. 11  
5 - 8 p.m.

Edith J. Carrier Arboretum

Tickets: \$18 for seats or \$75 for a private carriage

Celebrate the holidays with a horse-drawn carriage ride offered only one wintry evening each year. This dark sky carriage ride event is offered on the date of a new moon and is a 1-mile ride through the arboretum forest. Make sure to dress warm for a cozy ride. Call ahead to guarantee a seat at 540-568-3194.

## Nothin' Fancy Holiday Show

Saturday, Dec. 12

8 p.m. doors open at 7:30

Court Square Theater

Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door

Nothin' Fancy formed in 1994 as a bluegrass band to compete in a bluegrass competition. Since then, it has released 11 full-length albums while continuing to perform at festivals all across the U.S., Canada and Norway, including the Lincoln Center in New York City, and the Birchmere in Alexandria, Virginia. The group tours full-time and annually hosts the Nothin' Fancy Bluegrass Festival in Buena Vista, Virginia.

## John Kline Homestead Candlelight Dinner

Saturday, Dec. 19

6 p.m.

John Kline Homestead

Tickets: \$40

Step back in time to the fall of 1865 in Broadway, Virginia, following the ending of Civil War. Join Brethren Church elder and Civil War social actionist John Kline along with his family members and neighbors (portrayed by actors) as a guest for a family-style dinner in the 1822 John Kline house. The seating is limited to 36 per dinner, so for reservations, call 540-421-5267 or email proth@eagles.bridgewater.edu.

## Sonos Handbell Ensemble

Thursday, Dec. 10

8 p.m.

Forbes Concert Hall

Tickets: \$13 for students

Ring in the holidays with a performance by the world-renowned and critically acclaimed Sonos Handbell Ensemble. Founded in 1990, the California-based group has "moved handbells into the musical mainstream" with performances to millions across the U.S., Europe and Asia. The audience will hear solo and orchestra works by the 12-member ensemble handling 68 chromatically tuned bells covering over five octaves.



## Nickels & Wiener Improv Comedy Night

Thursday, Dec. 10

8 - 10 p.m. doors open at 7:30

Court Square Theater

Tickets: \$8

Nickels & Wiener are returning to the Court Square Theater stage for their two-man comedy duo. Take a study break to join the local group for some laughs.



**CONTACT** Rebecca Josephson at josephrc@dukes.jmu.edu.

## HOME | Holiday tour kicks off weeklong retail special with local businesses

from front

"Then we decided to really fulfill our mission even more so that we included homes, renovated businesses and downtown living," Huber said.

Now, the event has a whole host of events to supplement the self-guided tour, including musical performances, an online auction and, new this year, an afternoon tea at Heritage Bakery and Cafe.

After several months of preparation and careful consideration as to which buildings to include on this year's tour, Huber and the planning committee selected eight downtown buildings that offered something different for everyone.

The tour began in the newly renovated City Hall.

"City Hall is pretty amazing," Huber said. "We are feeling very fortunate that we got to have this as our host location. For one, it's a great way to show the building to people who haven't seen it yet, but it's also a beautiful space."

Upon entering the building, guests were greeted with the goose bump-inducing, melodic harmonies of "Angels We Have Heard on High" from The City Hall Carolers. A handful of trees glowing in white lighting and gold and white ornaments surrounded the first floor of the building, which featured contemporary lighting fixtures, a wooden staircase and a wide expanse of light-inducing windows.

The first stop, just a short walk from City Hall, was the downtown cottage. This 20th century-styled home, owned by Giles Stone, included elements of the original house that was previously owned by Earl Shirkey for nearly 40 years. Stone also added modern renovations, like a striking red roof and door. Christmas radio music orchestrated the tour as patrons visited rooms with hand-made quilts, a glass chess set and other unique assets.

At the next location, the theme of renovated yet traditional seemed to carry through. The Walton Building, formerly a hotel, grocery store, bus terminal and laundromat, among other businesses, now holds a handful of apartments. Loft 202 houses a two-story apartment, complete with a small balcony and overall included a decent amount of space.

Also in the Walton, in the downstairs area, is The Golden Pony restaurant. Volunteers pointed out the various artwork by downtown artists, including authentic Ethiopian murals. Visitors could see The Golden Pony in full operation, which wasn't something offered at other locations.

Up next was Jack's Hideaway, a speakeasy sort of bungalow that spoke directly to its name. Very few people know that it exists, but it is located above Billy Jack's Wing and Draft Shack and Jack Brown's Beer and Burger Joint. Tourists navigated through a series of closed doors until they reached the end of the hall and knocked for permission to enter the room.

Western-inspired decor surrounded the tiny bar. Wooden logs served as track lighting and the bar was decorated to match the rustic style of the speakeasy. Deer and bison heads adorning the walls were decked out in Santa attire and strands of holiday garland and lights shone throughout the space.

The second half of the tour seemed to include more of the holiday spirit, as decorations were more frequent. The Solar House, owned by partners Virginia Cutchin and Sherrie Good, was the most strikingly decorated building on the tour. Their holiday tree was clad with ornaments from various travel spots that Good and Cutchin have visited. Cutchin mentioned her travels to Canada with Good, sharing how she brought back antlers as a souvenir from her camping trip.

"We had to find a special box to package them on the plane," Cutchin said. "We lost all of our luggage, except for the antlers."

After visiting the house, the tour continued on to the Joshua Wilton House, an inn and restaurant filled with history. The Joshua Wilton House carolers performed on the front steps of the inn, drawing guests in with familiar holiday tunes.

The 1800s-era house is a business under recently updated ownership. It featured several opulent dining rooms that offer meals Tuesday-Saturday with French and Southern-inspired fare. The inn and restaurant both had traditional holiday decorations and matched the time period of the building itself.

The final destination was St. Stephen's Church of Christ. Here, Adair McConnell, the church organist, greeted visitors with a vivid and detailed history of the church, particularly mentioning the stained glass windows with German roots. Participants were able to wander around freely and explore the unique facets of the church, including a secret passageway leading from the pastor's office to a downstairs multipurpose room. Members of the church decorated the sanctuary with poinsettias and garlands for their Sunday service.

The Downtown Holiday Tour kicked off a weeklong event to further feature downtown businesses.

Celebrate Downtown, a retail special modeled after Taste of Downtown, started this past Saturday and will continue until this Saturday. There are about 20 participating stores that will have daily deals, workshops and gift offerings.

"It's meant to be festive and encourage people to celebrate the season downtown," Kim Kirk, director of promotions for the harrisonburg downtown renaissance, said. "That's our overall goal — to showcase the benefits of shopping locally, but also showcase the diversity of retail options that we have downtown."

**CONTACT** Nicolette Chuss at chussns@dukes.jmu.edu.



PHOTOS BY DANIEL STEIN / THE BREEZE

**TOP** A Christmas tree in a Harrisonburg home on the eighth annual holiday tour. **BOTTOM LEFT** St. Stephen's United Church of Christ was another stop on the tour. **BOTTOM RIGHT** The Solar House uses solar panels to conserve energy.

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# BRINGING GOOD CHEER

Students fill in the new student section at the Convocation Center in sections 104 and 105 during men's basketball's 63-57 win over Western Michigan University on Thursday evening.

SAM TAYLOR / THE BREEZE

JMU athletics marketing adds a student section closer to the action for men's basketball games at the Convo

By **KELLI ANNE LOUTHAN**  
contributing writer

With a student population of over 20,000 and an average men's basketball game attendance of around 500 students, JMU athletics marketing and the men's basketball program brainstormed ways to add numbers and energy to the Convocation Center.

The solution? A courtside student section. Students can now be closer to the action than before with designated lower level seating at Convo for men's basketball games.

Located beside the pep band and close to the action, the goal behind allocating new seats for students is engagement and atmosphere. Michael Carpenter, assistant athletic director for ticketing and customer relations, explained.

"Athletics marketing knew student engagement really made a big difference," Carpenter said. "The men's basketball program wanted better home court advantage and wanted more people close to the courts."

Thursday was the first day students could take advantage of the closer seating, and a nearly filled section didn't disappoint. The Dukes came out on top with a 63-57 win over Western Michigan University, and the student participation didn't go unnoticed.

"It was great," JMU head coach Matt Brady said. "We

need those students. And it wasn't full but it was a step in the right direction."

Players in the action on the court took notice too. "I'm glad with the number of students that came," senior point guard Ron Curry stated. "We really appreciate it."

Guaranteeing courtside seating for the students didn't occur overnight. The designated sections, 104 and 105, previously belonged to season ticket holders. In order to put the move into action, 65 season ticket accounts had to be redistributed. Carpenter said the work has been worth it so far and the atmosphere on Thursday was hopefully just a taste of what can come.

"It was cool to see the student section stand up with 30 seconds left to go and it led the whole building," Carpenter said. "Capitalizing on the momentum of the pep band just really seemed to take off."

Other student sections include sections 204 and 205, as well as bleachers on either baseline. JMU athletics fan group, We the Purple, used the new student section to unite the fans and bring back the "Electric Zoo" student section from the basketball games in the '70s. The organization placed flyers on every seat in the proclaimed "rooting zone" on Thursday. The flyers had chants, player statistics and a brief history of the student section during the "glory years."

Avid JMU basketball fan and senior communication studies major Anthony Corini has made an effort to attend

every home game since his freshman year. He can already tell a difference in energy compared to years past and has hopes for further student engagement.

"Our Pep Band does a second-to-none job of creating a good atmosphere and hopefully the new student section will further that home court advantage," Corini said.

Two years ago, the average attendance at the eight home games was 950. With 16 home games last year, the average attendance was 588. The players, coaches, staff and dedicated fans would love to see that number increase.

"The ultimate goal is having that section filled every single home game for the rest of the season," Carpenter said.

There's plenty of opportunity for fan interaction this season. With four home games left in December and a packed schedule next semester, Brady promises a competitive season.

"I think the fact that we have the lower section of seats, we're playing a really good schedule, we're playing good teams, it's really important that we do everything we can to inspire those kids to get out of their dorm rooms and get away from their laptops," Brady said.

Students can stake their claims in the Electric Zoo on Saturday at 4 p.m. when 6-3 JMU takes on George Mason University.

**CONTACT** Kelli Anne Louthan at [louthaka@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:louthaka@dukes.jmu.edu).

# Miles and memories

Two JMU seniors share their story of biking cross country from Baltimore to Portland

By **MICHAEL BETTER**  
*The Breeze*

Over the summer, friends Hannah Kotarski and Jessie Axsom set out on a biking adventure across America. Little did they know, they would make friends and memories that will last forever.

"We all shared an experience together that is very unique and no one else can relate to what happened on the trip besides our teammates," Axsom, a senior kinesiology major, said of the 30-rider group. "I think Hannah and I both made friends for life and we keep in touch with them almost daily. We were a very close team by the end of the trip."

Kotarski and Axsom signed up for the Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults' 4K for Cancer last year. Despite the daunting task of riding 4,600 miles across the country in 70 days, the two of them looked forward to the journey they would take together. The duo signed up for the Team Portland ride, which involved a northern route beginning in the Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland, and finishing in Portland, Oregon.

They rode between 50 miles and 120 miles each day with 4 a.m. wake-up calls and 6 a.m. departures. Some days were specific rest days off the bike.

"Jessie and I had been riding for a couple years now so we felt like we would have a bit of an upper hand," Kotarski, who's also a senior kinesiology major, said. "Of course we were nervous because we had never put ourselves in this type of situation before, but it is also like I feel like we both put ourselves in this type of situation because we wanted the challenge. We wanted to see how we could handle such a big endeavor."

Before their endeavor, each of them had to raise a minimum of \$4,500 for the Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults. The bikes they rode were donated by Trek, along with all of the housing and food on the trip. They slept on the floors of churches, schools and even people's homes as strangers opened their homes to the riders.

After months of training, which required them to log at least 500 miles and fundraising, May 31 finally came and the two ladies were ready to set off on their summer-long journey. Excitement and nervousness filled the air in Baltimore, though mostly nerves. Family and friends of the participants clapped and cheered as the riders dipped their rear wheels in the water in the Inner Harbor and then set-off on their voyage across the country.

"It was chaotic," Axsom said of the start. "There were alumni with us the first day and they helped to calm us down and get us excited."

Along the journey there were highs and lows, but one of the highlights both seniors spoke of was when the group would visit hospitals during their rest days and deliver care packages to patients.

"Each hospital had a different feel to it," Kotarski said. "Before we went and interacted with patients we were all acting nervous and a bit awkward in a way because it is kind of hard to know how to interact with patients who have terrible conditions. We had this one girl on our team who was so passionate about singing and writing music and she would come into the hospitals and sing for the patients and sing for the children and that would just lighten the mood and the patients were smiling."

After many miles and events, like a run-in with a herd of cattle in Nebraska, they finally made it to Tilamook, Oregon, on the Pacific coast.

"We had a party on the beach and dipped our front wheel in," Axsom said. "After this we actually had to continue biking for five more days because, fun fact, Portland is not actually on the coast."

When the group finally got to the finish in Portland, many of the rider's family and friends were waiting to greet them. Axsom explained how, in the final mile of the ride, her heart was racing, but there was also another emotion — one of sadness. The adventure was over and everyone



COURTESY OF HANNAH KOTARSKI

Hannah Kotarski and Jessie Axsom biked from Baltimore to the West Coast with a 30-rider team.

would go back to where they came from the next day.

"You wanted to keep celebrating with your teammates because you had just completed this huge accomplishment, but also your parents and close friends are waiting for you at the finish line, so of course you are filled with emotions seeing them and they are filled with emotions seeing you," Kotarski said.

Due to their positive experience on the ride last summer, Kotarski and Axsom signed up to help recruit others to do to the ride. Team Portland currently only has eight spots of the 30 filled for its 2016 ride.

Despite this fun and leg-searing adventure, the two agreed that it was a one-and-done kind of thing.

"I would say the ride was more physically challenging than mentally challenging," Axsom said. "I think it was more mental because we weren't getting a lot of sleep and it can be difficult to make yourself get on your bike for that long every day. But a lot of our teammates helped motivate us. We were pretty much a family."

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# PLAYOFFS | Withers has coached JMU to an 18-7 record in two seasons

from front

assuming the victory formation and officially winding down the clock on the Dukes' 2015 season.

Schor finished the game completing 13 of 18 passes for 141 yards and two touchdowns. He also added 36 yards on the ground and a touchdown. Contrarily, Melville completed eight of 23 passes for 120 yards and a touchdown, while adding 167 rushing yards and two scores.

Sophomore tailback James Holland also added 166 rushing yards and two scores for Colgate. The Dukes were outgained in the contest, giving up 463 yards to the Raiders while only gaining 298.

"They had more plays than we did," Withers said. "Physically they're probably not better than most teams, but they do what they do really well."

The Dukes finished the season 9-3.

While the loss was disappointing for the Dukes, they still saw success this year.

JMU led the FCS in multiple offensive categories for much of the season, including total offense, points per game and total points. The Dukes finished the season at second in total offense (6,345 yards, 71 touchdowns) and second in points (531 points, 44.3 points per game average).

On the other hand, the Dukes rank 78th in the nation in total defense, having given up 4,842 yards and 45 touchdowns.

Much of the success early on in the season can be credited to one of the most prolific scorers in JMU football history, redshirt senior quarterback Vad Lee. Lee was injured on Oct. 24 in the 59-49 loss to the University of Richmond. He finished his season with a 68.3 percent completion percentage, totaling 2,190 yards and 21 touchdowns. Lee threw his 51st career passing touchdown against Richmond, tying him for first all-time for career touchdowns in JMU history. Lee also finished with 870 rushing yards and eight touchdowns.

"[Lee] is a great young man, he has a lot of maturity about him," Withers said. "To come in how he did, have to change a major and pick up a couple of extra classes, and then to accomplish what he did for the community, academically and on the football field, hats off to him. He ought to run for president of the university."

Schor, who stepped in for the injured Lee, did just about all he could trying to fill the important vacant role.

"[He] is a great player and an unbelievable competitor," Ravenel said. "He came out in one of the most difficult scenarios you could ever put a quarterback in. We couldn't ask him to do anything more and I am very proud of him."

Schor was thrust into his new role when Lee exited the game against Richmond in the fourth quarter.

"When I first came in, I didn't have any time to think about it, I didn't have time to be nervous," Schor said. "I knew I was in a good place and was mentally in a good spot and I just got back to having fun."

Schor, who made his first career start on Oct. 31 against the College of William & Mary, finished the season with a 63 percent completion percentage with 847 yards and seven touchdowns. The sophomore also traversed 276 yards on the ground with four touchdowns.

Having led the Dukes to an 18-7 record in his first two seasons at JMU, Withers believes his team is heading in the right direction with the help of young talent.

"There's a whole bunch of young guys running around on that field today, and they're only going to get better," Withers said.

While those younger players still have more seasons left to don the purple and gold, for the 11 seniors, the journey ends here.

"It's crazy to think, 'OK, chapter closing,'" senior offensive lineman Austin Lane said. "I just took my shoulder pads off for the last time, it's a whirlwind of emotions."

Withers holds particular admiration for this graduating class.

"It's one of the best senior classes that I've been around, because they all bought in, they all care about the football team, they all do things right on and off the field," Withers said. "You have to have a strong leadership group on your team if you want to be successful."

Junior linebacker and team captain Gage Steele remarked on the camaraderie and brotherhood of his team in the locker room following the game.

"This year our team has grown tremendously," Steele said. "We've gotten really close this year and the bond we have is really nice. For us to have another successful season like we did, that's how it all starts is having a good team."

The senior class includes: Lee, Lane, offensive linemen Casey Kroll and Dominick Richards, defensive linemen Xavier gates and Alex Mosley, long snapper Derek Hart, linebacker Ascene Jacques, cornerback Taylor McNelis, kicker Ryan Maglio and tight end Deane Cheatham.

"When you get a group of brothers together you form something so special," Ravenel said. "At that point, football almost becomes secondary, and family comes first."

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PHOTOS BY ERIN WILLIAMS / THE BREEZE

**TOP** Colgate junior quarterback Jake Melville rushes for a touchdown on Saturday. **MIDDLE** Junior safety Raven Greene runs out of the Duke Dog tunnel before the game starts. **BOTTOM** Sophomore quarterback Bryan Schor rushes the ball.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL (7-3)

# Dukes roll over the Herd, 107-84

Junior guard Shakir Brown and senior guard Ron Curry combine for 50 points in JMU's rout of Marshall University



SAM TAYLOR / THE BREEZE

**Senior guard Ron Curry drives to the hoop during the men's basketball game against Marshall on Sunday.**

### JMU's next five games

Dec. 12	vs. George Mason	4 p.m.	Harrisonburg, Va.
Dec. 20	vs. East Carolina	2 p.m.	Harrisonburg, Va.
Dec. 22	vs. Mount St. Mary's	7 p.m.	Harrisonburg, Va.
Dec. 31	vs. College of Charleston	1 p.m.	Harrisonburg, Va.
Jan. 2	at Delaware	12 p.m.	Newark, Del.

**By KEVIN ROMM**  
The Breeze

Once JMU men's basketball overcame an early 7-2 run by Marshall University, the Dukes never looked back and cruised to a 107-84 victory Sunday afternoon at the Convocation Center for its fifth straight win.

It was an offensively dominated game. Four JMU players scored in double digits, with 30 from junior guard Shakir Brown, 20 from senior guard Ron Curry, 18 from junior forward Dimitrije Cabarkapa and 10 from junior forward Tom Vodanovich, who tacked on 10 rebounds as well.

"We played really hard," Vodanovich said. "Everyone that stepped out onto the court brought energy ... that's something we need to bring to every game."

The energy seemed to be feeding from player to player as JMU shot 50 percent from the field in the contest, including 48 percent from behind the arc, netting 14 three-pointers. Five of those threes came from Brown, who finally had his breakout game at the Convo. Before Sunday's 30-point game, Brown had averaged just seven points at home.

"As pleased as I am with his ability to score, it's his passing ability and his basketball IQ that make us a better basketball team on the offensive end," JMU head coach Matt Brady said. "He is one of those guys that has a great feel for how the ball should move."

The Herd's half-court ball screen defense tested JMU's ability to move the ball and shoot perimeter shots. This was a test JMU ultimately passed by shooting so well from behind the arc, however it did limit JMU's post offense throughout the game.

"We do have more than one guy that can score at the rim in the low post so we do want to throw the ball in there more," Brady said. "We had opportunities to do that to Tom and Dimitrije but they didn't necessarily finish as much."

With junior forward Yohanny Dalembert playing while still, "not far away from 100 percent" according to Brady after suffering a meniscus injury before the start of the season, finding another big man that can step up to both score and rebound down low has been a challenge for JMU when Dalembert is on the bench. Dalembert played 14 minutes Sunday with seven points and four rebounds.

"Yoyo is always a powerhouse out there on the court so with him out we need people to step up," Vodanovich said. "We've talked a lot about rebounding over the last couple of days so that's what we were all trying to do today and I think we did pretty well."

Rebounding was certainly not an issue for JMU in this game — the Dukes out-rebounded the Herd 54-34.

Now that the Dukes have nearly an entire week off before they play their next game, this Saturday against George Mason University at the Convo at 4 p.m., it should give Dalembert time to rest up and get back to his normal playing ways.

"When he's not 100 percent he's not the same player," Brady said. "He's not as explosive and quick, he can really use the rest."

Brown and the rest of the Dukes are also looking forward to the lengthy break as Sunday's game was the team's tenth already this season and the third in less than a week.

"We need a break," Brown said. "We haven't had a break in two weeks, everyone is really tired, bodies are getting sore ... we have a day off tomorrow and we are just going to enjoy our day off."

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MEGAN MEDEIROS | contributing columnist

# Stop the stigma

Menstruation is a natural part of life

I was in Wal-Mart a little while ago to purchase tampons, wine, cookies and Pamprin. I had had an awful day, was plagued by cramps and planning a girls' night with my best friend to recoup. When I was picking out cookies, a man approached me and thought it wise to laugh at my purchases and make a snarky remark about PMS. I was appalled that he would be so rude and inconsiderate to a complete stranger in such a public place and had no clue how to respond.

When I was younger, I was never really embarrassed to buy feminine products; I didn't see how it was any different than, say, toilet paper, because all girls need them. I was always confused by my friends hiding them in their shopping carts at stores or getting someone else to buy them. I began to question my confidence. Maybe my friends were right; periods are gross, so why would I want anyone to know I was on mine?

Flash forward a few years. I've been in a serious, committed relationship for six, almost seven years. My boyfriend and I live together, so obviously he knows when it's my time of the month. He helped me remember that there's nothing to be ashamed of. It's so much better to be upfront about it. When I'm having an awful day full of cramps, migraines and the other symptoms girls are plagued with during "the curse," he surprises me with bubble baths and candy. This is the way it should be.

Women shouldn't be afraid to tell people what they're going through. It's extremely beneficial to inform your loved ones when you aren't feeling the best. Now, I'm not saying that everyone you tell will buy you candy and prepare you a bubble bath, but they'll at least understand if you get overly upset or eat a ridiculous amount of sweets. Menstruation is a part of life that women shouldn't feel like they have to hide.

People have already made big moves in the right direction as far as destigmatizing this facet of womanhood. For example, Jose Garcia, a 15-year-old boy, brought this issue

to his Instagram account back in April, calling "every boy that follows [him] and calls himself a man or simply a good human being" to carry around "a couple pads or tampons ... to help our girl friends." He attempts to get people to see beyond the stigma by calling them to "support [females] with this, after all, we don't have to go [through] all they do because of menstruation, so it's just logical that we help them" and says that they "should already know to give them their sweater and not question when they wrap it around their waist."

Beyond that, companies are branching out to create new products for women to make dealing with menstruation more comfortable. Shethinx, for example, has come out with a line of "period underwear" that's meant to either replace tampons and pads or simply act as a safeguard against leakage, whichever feels more comfortable. DivaCup has also released a new way to deal with menstruation called a menstrual cup. The menstrual cup can hold more than a tampon, and most women only have to empty it once or twice a day.

So what good can come out of erasing this stigma that periods are gross and should be kept hidden? Firstly, not receiving different looks or any level of shame when purchasing feminine products is a huge plus. We, as students, have enough stress in our lives, and especially during that time of the month. Why should we make it worse on ourselves? Secondly, your true friends and loved ones will be understanding. They'll comfort you when you're feeling especially miserable, support you in your mood swings and cravings and help you in whatever way you need. Lastly, erasing the stigma could help to bring even greater products and ideas to the market to make menstruation a more comfortable and an altogether more bearable time.

Megan Medeiros is a junior English major. Contact Megan at medeirmn@dukes.jmu.edu.

IAN BAXTER | contributing columnist

# Slowly, but surely

Small progress toward slowing down climate change is better than nothing

After multiple accords, treaties and one majorly inconvenient truth, the world finds itself in Paris to decide where the next step in global climate change governance is going to be. After a landmark bilateral agreement between China and the U.S., where both agreed to mutually decrease emissions, the Paris summit is shaping up to be a pivotal moment in environmental history. With managed expectations that many of the previous accords didn't possess, many regard these talks as an important stepping stone to progress rather than a solution to the problem that would inevitably falter. So, with all of these positives, can we expect a groundbreaking treaty from Paris?

The short answer is no. But only an observer not familiar with these types of international conventions would expect that. Mandatory emissions caps are out of the question, as the U.S. can't support them when members of the majority party in its legislature still vehemently deny the existence of climate change. Analysts expect that the over 170 national plans present at the summit would still allow for the planet's temperature to rise about 6 degrees Fahrenheit. This is limited progress, but progress nonetheless. And in

the international world, sometimes it's more important to gauge success on what'll be possible in the future, rather than what the present looks like.

With modest success today and hopefully future progress to come, it's crucial for those world leaders involved in the summit to go above and beyond, not only for their respective countries and cities, but for humanity in general.

Climate change affects us all, but will harm currently disenfranchised people more. These global leaders can't succumb to political pressure or be swayed by corporate interests; the health of the globe is more important than any profit margin.

Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon stated these talks are "the floor, not the ceiling." While it's clear we're late already in addressing this pressing issue, something is better than nothing.

We should be optimistic about what we can achieve when we put ourselves and our planet ahead of selfishness and greed.

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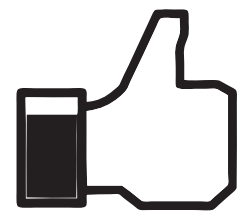
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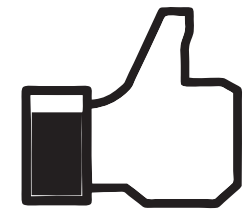
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