

The Breeze

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Mr. & Ms. Madison

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Friday

- ☛ Haunted Harrisonburg Ghost Tours @ Hardesty-Higgins House Visitor Center, 8 - 9:30 p.m.
- ☛ Zombie Killin' Ale' release party @ Three Notch'd Brewing, 9 p.m.

Saturday

- ☛ JMU Homecoming Game vs. New Hampshire @ Bridgeforth Stadium, 3:30 p.m.
- ☛ Haunted Halloween Costume Party @ Backcountry Restaurant & Lounge LLC, 9 p.m.

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JMU volleyball statistics show the team's skill

ALYSSA ANTONIO / THE BREEZE

CORRECTIONS:

- The article titled "Cause at the core" printed on pages 6 and 7 of last week's issue said it was Showalter's eighth Annual Apple Harvest Festival. It was the 18th annual festival.

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FROM COMMUNE



LOREN PROBISH / THE BREEZE

Richard Gaughran, a professor at JMU, has a rich history of social activism. The photo above shows a postcard of a Harry Willock illustration on the Beatles' "Revolution," which hangs on his office door.

By **ABBY CHURCH**
The Breeze

In the midst of the Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War, the 1960s in the United States brought an era defined by a counterculture of resistance. Richard Gaughran, an associate professor of English at JMU, had a front-row seat to all the action — from being a part of a commune in the early '70s to teaching in Macedonia in the '90s.

Growing up in the suburbs of New Jersey in the late '60s, Gaughran headed west when he was 17 and enrolled at the University of Arizona for a semester, where he hardly went to class and didn't earn any credits. Having no desire to be there anymore, Gaughran heard about the commune scene in New Mexico and hitched a ride there with a guy who was visiting his brother in Tucson, Arizona.

The driver dropped Gaughran off at a makeshift hippie settlement in Pilar, New Mexico. It was here that Gaughran heard about a commune called New Buffalo, and he hitchhiked there the next day. Gaughran lived at New Buffalo from 1970 to 1971, taking on tasks such as milking goats and making cheese in the commune.

When he got married and had kids, Gaughran started to develop more traditional family values and withdrew from the commune scene. Gaughran and his family moved to Taos, New Mexico, where he lived in poverty and worked occasional construction jobs and even a forest firefighting job for one summer.

After living this way for a while, Gaughran felt he needed to do something more with his life.

"At some point, I said to myself, 'I [have to] do something besides be a bum,'" Gaughran said.

Moving his family back east to New York to be close to his parents, Gaughran enrolled at Roberts Wesleyan College, where he discovered his passion for literature and received his bachelor's degree. He later moved on to Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, earning his master's and doctorate in English. Gaughran taught at a neighboring university before receiving a job at JMU.

Gaughran started his career at JMU on a three-year contract. When that ended, he stayed for two more years, and quickly earned the love of students. When his contract ended and he wasn't offered his job back, Gaughran didn't leave without a ruthless fight from his students. Forming a petition — that Gaughran hasn't seen to this day — students did everything they could to keep their beloved professor teaching at JMU.

"I just tried to stay out of it because I didn't want to seem like I was orchestrating the effort, but I did hear about it," Gaughran said. "Students were saying, 'Oh, I'm [going to] go talk to the dean,' or 'I'm [going to] go talk to the department head,' and so on, and I said, 'Whatever you want to do, that's fine,' but I just stayed back and away from it."

One of the students involved in the petition was JMU alumna Laurie Frankel ('95). She remembers how infuriated students were that Gaughran was leaving and how desperate they were to keep him there.

"He was such a great teacher," Frankel said. "We didn't care about what line he had been hired under, of course, nor did we care about,

you know, publications or anything else. He's just such a wonderful, committed, caring, engaging teacher that it seemed appalling that he would want to stay and the university wouldn't want to bend over backwards to keep him."

The petition didn't work, but Gaughran was happy to move onto his next adventure in Macedonia, where he taught for five years before returning to JMU. He remembers sitting on the floor of his apartment in Yugoslavia being interviewed for another temporary position.

Having taught at JMU nonconsecutively since '92, Gaughran's proven himself to be quite

a popular professor in terms of his teaching style and anecdotes about his life experiences growing up in a "polarized time" that eerily mimics today's society.

Scott Suter, an English professor at Bridgewater College, has been one of Gaughran's best friends for around 25 years and met him when they were both teaching at JMU in the early '90s. Suter has had Gaughran come teach his students at Bridgewater, and says his lectures are much more interesting for students than learning information from a documentary. He thinks Gaughran's experiences make him a "fascinating conversationalist."

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“In terms of him being a professor and a popular professor, I think it’s just that he’s very knowledgeable and is able to infuse his lectures and his discussions with that knowledge and that enthusiasm for knowledge,” Suter said.

Senior English major Rob Porter is currently taking his fifth class with Gaughran for his film studies minor. He’s gotten to hear all of Gaughran’s stories about growing up in the late ’60s and early ’70s, and admires how they’re similar in the fact they both took unconventional routes to get to where they are today.

“From what I gather, he took some time off from school and did some life things before going back, and I’m the same way,” Porter said. “I went to community college while I was working before I came back to school, and so to see someone who’s done it that way, that certainly helps when you go in a nontraditional direction.”

Frankel, who currently lives in Seattle, is now a published author. She says she gained inspiration from Gaughran to go on to graduate school for literature and become a novelist.

“He struck that perfect balance in class between having interesting things to say, you know, being

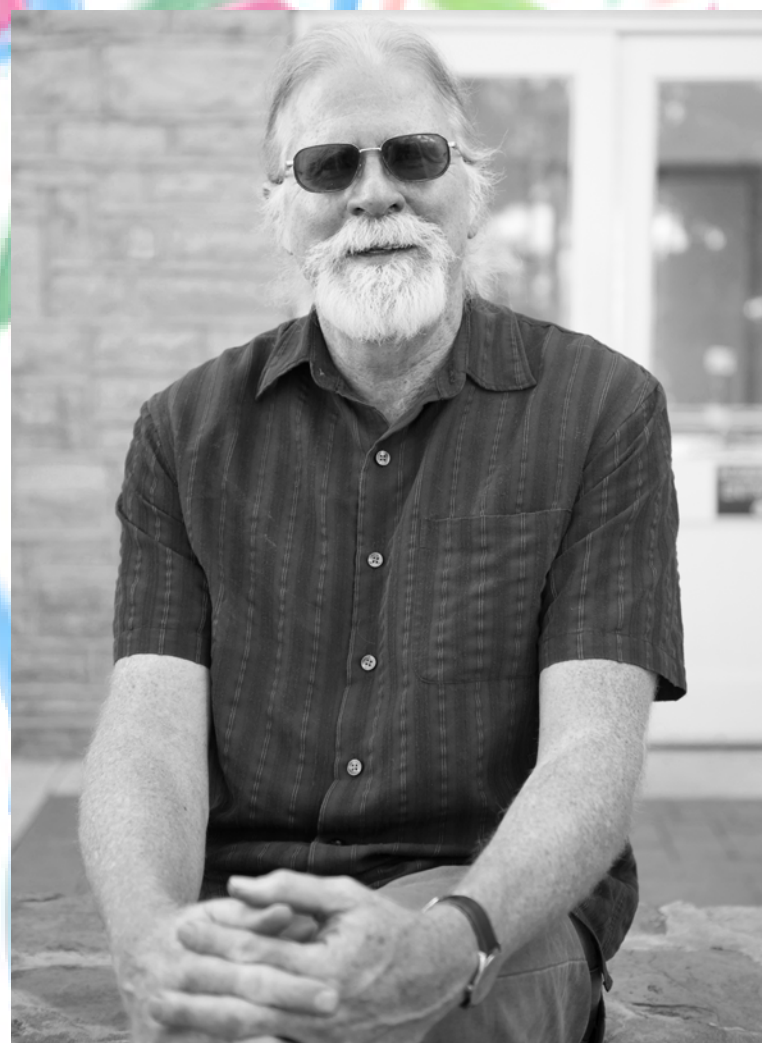
an interesting lecturer, but also inspiring really, really fascinating discussion that has stayed with me all these years and, you know, and this just, like, committed, inspired love of reading, which I just found very inspirational,” Frankel said.

Gaughran says that while his beliefs have changed throughout the years, he still carries some of his old ways with him. Growing up during the Vietnam era, he never registered for the draft when he turned 18. No one ever found out, and Jimmy Carter’s amnesty for draft registrees in ’77 permits him to speak about his experience openly today.

Following last year’s presidential election, Gaughran hung a vibrant postcard of Harry Willock’s 1969 lyric illustration for the Beatles’ “Revolution” on his office door. No matter how much time passes, his belief in civil opposition remains.

“I still carry some of that with me, you know,” Gaughran said. “Those kinds of instincts to resist.”

CONTACT Abby Church at churchae@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.



LOREN PROBISH / THE BREEZE

After his time with the commune was finished, Gaughran pursued teaching literature.

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Organization aims to create political conversation

COURTESY OF TURNING POINT USA

Turning Point USA is a national organization that focuses on addressing right-wing issues that frequently aren't talked about at public institutions. The organization is working on establishing a chapter at JMU.

By **MARY HARRISON**
contributing writer

"Big Government Sucks" is the motto of Turning Point USA, a nationwide youth organization that's launching a chapter on JMU's campus. The nonprofit group has dubbed itself a leading conservative grassroots network with over 1,000 chapters on college and high school grounds.

"College campuses are generally very left-winged, especially the professors," Andrew McIlwean, TPUSA's Virginia field director, said. "Turning Point's mission is just out to bring different ideas to college campuses."

These issues are addressed in a variety of systems, including a website launched in November 2016 called Professor Watchlist. According to the official site, students and others are asked "to expose and document college professors who discriminate against conservative students and advance leftist propaganda in the classroom." Both the professors and the site's accusations are protected under free speech.

"It's no secret that some of America's college professors are totally out of line," Charlie Kirk, founder and executive director of TPUSA, wrote in a blog post.

University professors listed on the website are searchable by school or name; it features descriptions of their alleged transgressions along with identification pictures. The list hasn't collected any JMU professors.

"I think a lot of times in class when professors have a narrative, students think that's how they have to think, and it's not," Megan Brobst, a sophomore history major and member of College Republicans, said. "Regardless of what the class is about, they should offer both sides and not coerce the students into thinking a certain way."

According to the organization, a majority of Virginia public colleges have TPUSA's presence on campus, and senior justice studies major Mike Power found it necessary to launch a chapter at JMU. Power is optimistic about exposing students to ideas of limited government, free markets and fiscal responsibility.

"I think there's a big problem in our society today where people don't really care about politics," Power said.

The organization hosts national conferences, which in the past have included speakers such as conservative commentator Tomi Lahren and Victims of Communism. The organization's next conference is in West Palm Beach in December with Lahren, Donald Trump Jr. and Ben Shapiro confirmed as speakers.

On a localized domain, campus groups display visual activism, including "free speech ball" — a large inflatable beach ball that promotes the idea of free speech by encouraging students to write what they wish. According to Power, chapters have engaged students in a debt-guessing game by placing dunk tanks on campus, which symbolizes that the nation is drowning in debt.

"I think there's a big problem in our society today where people don't really care about politics"

Mike Power
Senior justice studies major

TPUSA at Kent State University's most recent activism event exhibited members in adult diapers while they sucked on pacifiers in fake playpens on campus. TPUSA at Kent State's Twitter account tweeted "Safe spaces are for children" on Oct. 19. The national organization released a statement the following day announcing the chapter's event was in poor taste.

The organization's official Twitter and Facebook pages post memes that target leftist idealism or liberal public figures. Its official website additionally features graphics expressing "Commissaires Aren't Cool," "Socialism Sucks" and "Taxation is theft." TPUSA leans conservatively according to its website, yet the nonprofit nature does not permit the national group to endorse candidates or reinforce partisan efforts.

"You can't put us in a compartment with a political party or candidate," McIlwean said. "We have people from the far left of the political spectrum to the far right of the political spectrum and all in between involved in Turning Point, and they find something they can agree and align with. And even if someone doesn't, we want people to come to hear different ideas. We are an organization where you can do that."

JMU's chapter aims to be recognized by the university by the spring of 2018. Power encourages students of all beliefs and backgrounds to join in on the discussions sparked by TPUSA.

"If I can just get a couple of people to start thinking about politics then I would be very happy," Power said. "It's really open to everyone, I'm just trying to start a conversation."

CONTACT Mary Harrison at harri4mj@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.



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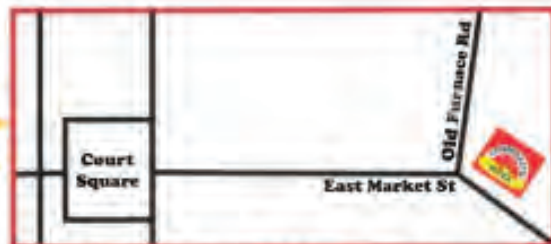
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All eyes on the opioid crisis

JMU's physician assistant program tackles opioid epidemic

By **THOMAS ROBERTSON**
The Breeze

More than 90 Americans die each day from overdosing on opioids, and over 33,000 Americans died from an opioid overdose in 2015, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Virginia isn't immune to this opioid crisis. In November of last year, Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) declared the opioid crisis a public health emergency. JMU student Hailey Moore died during that same month due to an overdose involving opioids.

In light of this opioid crisis, JMU's physician assistant program hosted a conference on opioids on Saturday. The event was geared toward educating clinicians and students on opioids, and how to properly deal with those drugs in the workplace.

"This has been a crisis for a long time coming," Gerald Weniger, director of the physician assistant program at JMU, said. "It's just starting to really come to a head, though."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of overdose deaths due to opioids has more than quadrupled since 1999.

The purpose of opioid prescriptions are to kill pain from severe acute injuries, or injuries that occur suddenly, like fractures. They're also prescribed after surgery.

"[It's] a problem with abuse of legal drugs — prescription painkillers that people might be prescribed for good reason, but then get addicted to them or get hooked on them and start abusing them for the wrong reasons," Weniger said. "It's been a problem for decades."

Once these injuries heal, patients may continue to use their pills, or may already be dependent on them. Heroin and other illicit drugs provide a dangerous alternative to

patients who can't get prescriptions refilled.

Prescribers are now more reluctant to give opioids to patients, especially for chronic injuries. Since the opioid crisis was declared an emergency in Virginia, stricter regulations have been put in place to determine who and what can qualify for an opioid prescription.

"I feel like our culture in the United States in general is one of instant gratification," Joel Hess, doctor of medicine at RMH Orthopedics, said. "So it's sometimes a surprise to patients as to why we hesitate now to not give opioids."

Hess spoke at JMU's opioid conference, and is a prescriber of painkilling medicines including opioids. He sees 25-30 new patients each day.

According to Hess, one of the biggest reasons that opioids are still prescribed is because there's still a large emphasis on satisfying patients, and that reimbursement to medical institutions is tied into patient satisfaction.

"It's very hard sometimes if the patient is saying, 'I want a narcotic, I want an opioid,' to say 'no' and still get a good patient satisfaction score," Hess said. "So I think that starts with patient education."

The conference was sponsored by the Health Resources

and Services Administration and was funded by a grant they awarded to JMU's PA program.

Sharon Palamar, a second-year PA student in the master's program, said JMU focuses on teaching first-line and second-line treatments. First-line treatments are the primary option for doctors and prescribers, with second-line treatments serving as a backup.

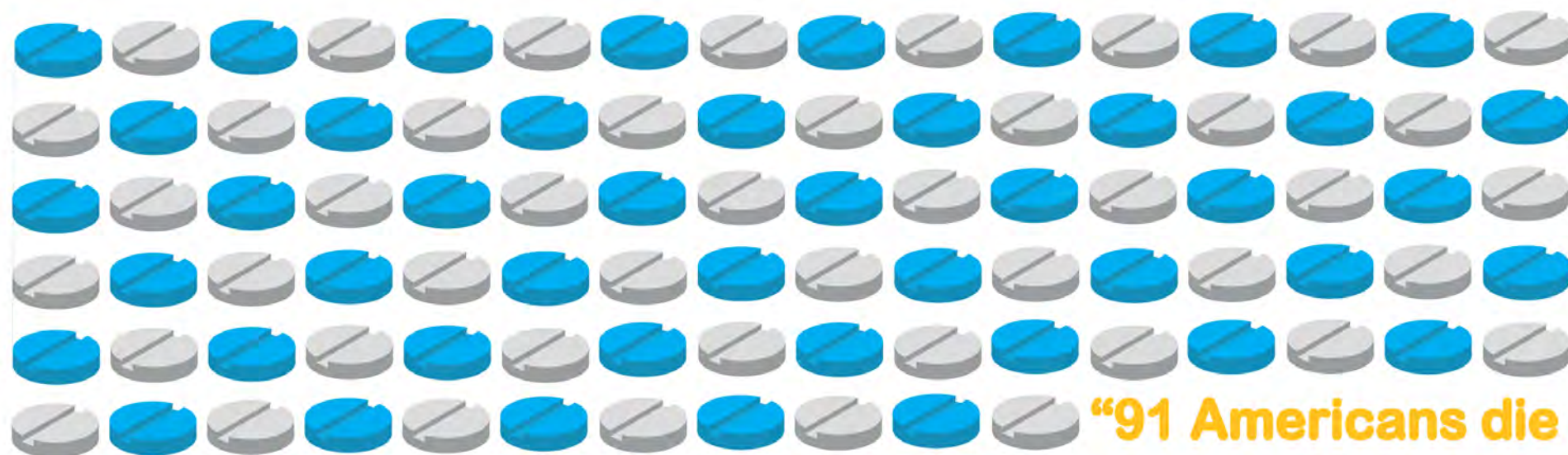
"People are realizing because [prescribing opioids] has such devastating effects long term, I think they're not trying to use that anymore," Palamar said. "They're trying to change people's prescribing habits to not use those as first-line."

For now, the opioid crisis continues to claim more and more lives. Hess says that new regulations can make a difference, but that professionals and patients alike need to understand those regulations and adhere to them.

"There still are people that are not listening," Hess said. "I definitely feel like in order for us to cure the problem across the board, everybody kind of needs to be on board."

CONTACT Thomas Robertson at rober3t1@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.

JOURNEY HART / CONTRIBUTING DESIGNER



every day from an opioid overdose."

- According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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JMU pride **obscures** our faults

Dukes need to step up and contribute to society

CAROLINE RYAN | contributing columnist



After hosting 14,000 purple-clad fans on the Quad for ESPN's "College

Gameday," JMU clearly lacks in anything but school pride. Any student could tout JMU's many achievements, from our undefeated football team, our food that ranks higher than Virginia Tech's or our status as one of the top-30 public universities in the country.

For Dukes, all of this flattery for the "happiest place on earth" easily drowns out any critical voices. It therefore came as a total shock when I saw a report from the Brookings Institution that labeled JMU as the biggest "laggard" of U.S. public universities. This nationally recognized think tank claims that our university contributes the least to society and, therefore, wastes taxpayer dollars. The article left me both astonished and embarrassed.

The Brookings Institution evaluated 342 public universities nationwide, ranking which schools justify taxpayer subsidies with their significant contributions to society. They concluded that JMU is neither a "ladder" — a university that provides avenues for social mobility — nor a "lab," which conducts research that benefits the greater good. Failing on both accounts makes JMU a "laggard." By this, Brookings suggests that we suck money from the public's pockets without making any substantial contribution to society in return — ouch.

Our position as first on this list, making us the biggest laggard, should deeply trouble us. Our reputation — not to mention potential funding for programs like financial aid — is at stake. If we want our school to truly be as great as we know it is, then we must address this accusation.

A major cause for this ranking is JMU's lack of socioeconomic diversity. The Brookings Institution found that 64 percent of JMU students come from households in the top 20 percent income bracket ... while a whopping 1.9 percent of Dukes reside in the bottom 20 percent of household incomes.

"We suck money from the public's pockets without making any substantial contribution to society in return."

Caroline Ryan

Compared to other state universities like VCU, where only 36.9 percent of students come from that top-income quintile, the upper-middle class dominates JMU. Our socioeconomic homogeneity inhibits us from providing equal access to college education to less affluent students.

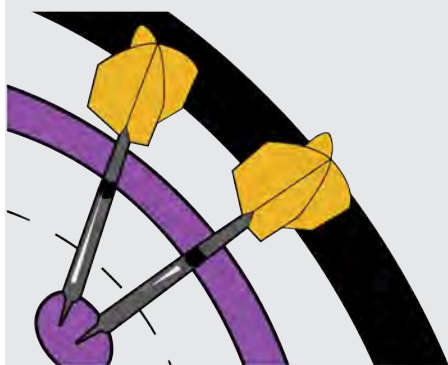
Many of the leading "ladders" on the Brookings list have campuses located in very socioeconomically diverse areas, possibly accounting for their diverse student populations. Location is no excuse for JMU, however. As of 2015, the

median household income of Harrisonburg residents rested around \$39,000 — essentially a third of the median income of a JMU student's household, cited by Brookings as \$134,300.

The Brookings report, of course, is far from perfect. Bill Wyatt, JMU's official spokesperson, discussed the study's issues. First of all, the report uses data that dates back to the early 2000s. Wyatt emphasized JMU's commitment "to increase access, diversity and inclusion," which prompted the induction of programs like the Centennial Scholars and Valley Scholars since this data was collected. We now have around 3.6 percent of low-income students, rather than 1.9 percent.

Wyatt disputed that the article evaluated universities solely on social mobility and research, along with the methods of evaluating the latter.

The Brookings study used only the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education to determine a university's "lab" status. Given that JMU doesn't hold a Carnegie classification, we were excluded from this list of lab schools.



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A **"which-planet-is-in-retrograde-this-time"** dart to my laptop charger breaking and my roommate bleaching all the clothes I had in the washer.
From a girl just trying to get through the day.

A **"that's-too-spooky"** dart to my roommate for hanging a huge spider in our apartment.
From a resident who didn't realize it was made out of plastic until she was done crying.

A **"we-appreciate-you"** pat to the alumna on the William & Mary sideline who offered her JMU hat to two photographers who were frying under the intense sunshine.
From a grateful photographer who habitually forgets her hat and sunscreen.



BREEZE FILE PHOTO

JMU student Andrew Crumpler writes ideas on how students can give back to the community.

Citing our lack of a large graduate school — which typically fuels a university’s research output — or a Carnegie classification can easily dismiss our absence on the lab list. JMU centers on undergraduate experience, not research, after all. Yet, Brookings’ analysis of JMU is worth consideration. Not having a graduate school allows us to focus on undergraduate work, much of which includes research. We should garner more recognition for this.

For students, this means taking the initiative and studying your interests. JMU prides itself on offering faculty-student collaboration and the opportunity to work alongside a professor and conduct research. For inspiration, turn to the Honors College capstone projects, which even non-honors students can complete, or the James Madison Undergraduate Research Journal.

Wyatt brought necessary context to JMU’s laggard status; the

old data and focus on prestigious research cast JMU in a negative light.

While I agree that universities can contribute far more than just research and mobility, examining JMU in these terms offers valuable discourse. The Brookings article shocked me because I’m constantly surrounded by stats and surveys praising our school, making me oblivious to any criticism. My plea to my fellow students, then, is to think critically about how those not wearing purple see JMU.

We can’t only heed our victories and ignore accusations like this. Fortunately, the school is already taking steps to improve access to education. Only by recognizing our university’s shortcomings can we continue to resolve them.

Caroline Ryan is a sophomore communication studies and dance double major. Contact Caroline at ryan2cd@dukes.jmu.edu.

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Unpacking the significance of the upcoming gubernatorial election

DAN FORD | forward thinking



Although I don't adhere to the belief that refraining from voting in an election disqualifies one from having the authority to openly discuss — and at times complain about — political matters, I hold the firm opinion that

voting is the civic duty of every citizen. As such, come Tuesday, Nov. 7, JMU students who are registered to vote in Harrisonburg should enter the voting booths and cast their ballots in what's become a very important gubernatorial election. If registered elsewhere, I encourage you to vote through an absentee ballot — the deadline to request one is Tuesday, Oct. 31. Through this, Virginians will determine who'll serve as the next governor of the commonwealth as well as lieutenant governor, attorney general and their respective House delegate.

The results of such elections have a remarkable impact on our daily lives, with the governor of Virginia signing legislation passed by the state legislature while — accompanied by the lieutenant governor and attorney general

— serving an important role in determining the economic, environmental and social future of the state. Although often lost in the commonality of today's coverage of nationally concentrated political matters, the power of these statewide office holders, as it relates to issues dear to the average college student, can be remarkable.

It's the state legislature that, combined with the governor, has the capacity to determine minimum wage and unionization laws. It also determines college tuition matters while providing opportunities to businesses seeking expanded employment, including opening positions for recent college graduates. And because of the importance of our state legislature — called the Virginia General Assembly — in these matters, it's critical that the delegates' race not be overlooked.

In parallel to the U.S. Congress, the Virginia General Assembly is composed of two chambers or houses. One, the state Senate, operates in a manner similar to the U.S. Senate, with these

officials being fewer in number and often of greater prestige. The other, the House of Delegates, is Virginia's version of the U.S. House of Representatives, with officials elected from a smaller concentration of citizens than senators,

"The power of these statewide office holders, as it relates to issues dear to the average college student, can be remarkable."

Dan Ford

thus making them more responsive to local needs. It's this delegate who has the critical role of voting for legislation presented before him or her in Richmond, Virginia, including the very important matter of forming political districts based upon the results of the most recent census. Therefore, if you're concerned about the dangers arising from gerrymandered districts — as you should be — vote for the candidate seeking to end the concerns arising from the creation of such politically slanted districts.

Although Republicans currently hold 66 seats in the House, with Democrats holding 34 seats, this race is critical to Virginia's future. This is due to the fact that numerous close election results are expected throughout the state in the

November election, therefore allowing for the potential of changing the General Assembly from being Republican to Democratically controlled.

Harrisonburg's delegate district is open for re-election this year, with incumbent Republican Tony Wilt competing against Democratic challenger Brent Finnegan. For those seeking to learn more about these two candidates, The Breeze is providing the remarkable opportunity to hear from each candidate in a live forum on Thursday Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. — just days before the election — in the auditorium of Memorial Hall. With this election being so critical to the composition of the state's General Assembly, I urge all who have the slightest interest in learning more about the candidates to go to this forum, thereby gaining a better understanding of the stances of each candidate.

Going to events such as this one and personally hearing from candidates is how one can be best prepared to properly cast their vote in this important election.

I therefore encourage you to engage in events such as the one listed above and, most importantly, vote in this year's election.

Dan Ford is a senior international affairs and international business double major. Contact Dan at forddm@dukes.jmu.edu.

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Overworked and under pressure

Professors need to take a step back and acknowledge students' stress

JAZMINE OTEY | call for change



It's come to the point in the year where teachers are relentlessly piling assignment after assignment on students.

It's a given that college is supposed to be a challenge, but there are often boundaries that teachers tend to cross.

When it comes to a time in the year where students are nearly buried under a myriad of strenuous demands, it becomes questionable whether this

workload strips education of its value — all the while stumping a student's work ethic into a vicious pulp.

I'm sure many students can recall a night when they sacrificed their sleep for the sake of their grades. Regardless of the intensity of the throbbing headache, drooping eyes and pulsing anxiety, the academic pressure is significant enough that students begin to disregard their health.

While this may not apply to all, countless students put their health to the side due to teachers' outrageous demands.

This is my second year of college and even though many of the courses

I've taken are only GenEds, there are moments when I've experienced such overwhelming amounts of stress that it feels like I can't breathe. Just when I've finally tackled one large task, I'm

"The pressure of academic demands can also lead to stress, anxiety and depression."

Jazmine Otey

assignment oftentimes shows them strengths they never knew they had. However, when teachers pile students under an abundance of rigorous work, it can often backfire and undermine a

student's education.

In fact, the more work that builds up from each class, the less a student is concerned with learning the new material.

Instead, they'll be focused on ways they can get work done quickly yet effectively, conclusively preventing them from retaining the information.

Linda Darling-Hammond, professor of Stanford University, claims that a student's focus on memorization instead of retention obstructs learning. She argues that when students simply memorize material, it squanders what they're taught.

The pressure of academic demands can also lead to stress, anxiety and depression.

see **OVERWORKED**, page 16



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- C5 (Cardinal House)
- C10 (Phys/Chem)
- C11 (Festival)
- C12 (Festival)
- D2 (Phys/Chem)
- D3 (Festival)
- D6 (Festival)
- R1 Cardinal House
- R4 (University Plaza)
- R5 (University Plaza)
- R-10/ R-11 Parking Lot

CAMPUS PARKING (POST-GAME)

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- C5 (Cardinal House)
- C10 (Phys/Chem)
- C11 (Festival)
- C12 (Festival)
- D2 (Phys/Chem)
- D3 (Festival)
- D6 (Festival)
- R1 Cardinal House
- R4 (University Plaza)
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OVERWORKED | Finding a balance

from page 14

Amy Ebeling, a Ramapo College graduate, struggled with college stress.

"I was a crazy overachiever," Ebeling said. "I got involved in all the clubs and extracurricular activities."

However, she expresses that when her mood dropped, it was hard for her to find the strength to stay on top of her responsibilities.

Furthermore, while buried under loads of assignments, oftentimes students feel that they're alone and try to pretend that they're on top of things. However, this only leads to more students putting on a façade instead of reaching out for help. This cycle ultimately causes more students to feel isolated.

"A colleague of mine has started calling it the 'game face' that students put on, that tells everybody else in the world, 'I'm just fine, I'm handling it, look at me juggling school, extracurricular activities, and work,'" Katharine Mooney, director of Wellness & Prevention Services at Boston University's Student Health

Services, said. "But that's not how they're feeling... they feel really alone, isolated, that no one else feels like they do and that's just not the case."

More often than not, students find themselves drowning in an ocean of assignments, struggling to reach the surface. But it's important that students are aware they aren't alone or in isolation. There are countless individuals on campus facing similar trials. While few admit to it and simply force a smile, behind that smile, some are struggling to hold their composure due to college stress. Another thing to bear in mind is that it's critical that students find an equilibrium between relaxation and work and overall just allow themselves a breather.

Regardless of that top notch grade a student is striving for or the assignment they're trying to get in before the deadline, health should always be a top priority.

Jazmine Otey is a sophomore writing, rhetoric and technical communication major. Contact Jazmine at oteyjl@dukes.jmu.edu.



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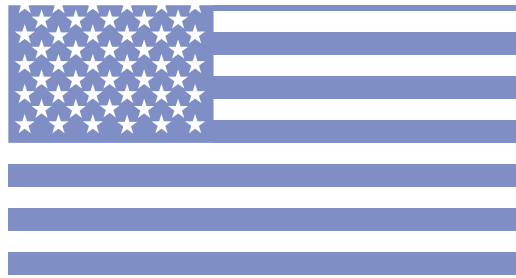
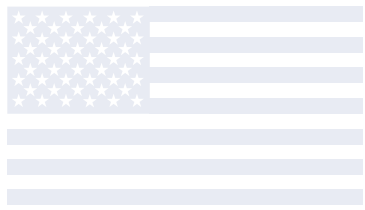
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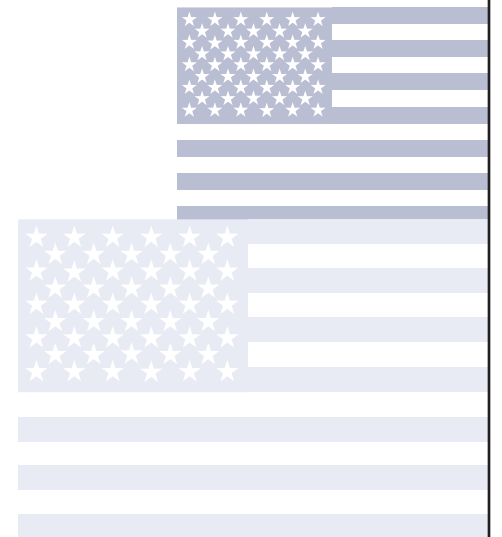
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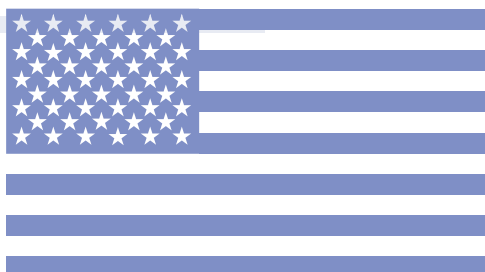
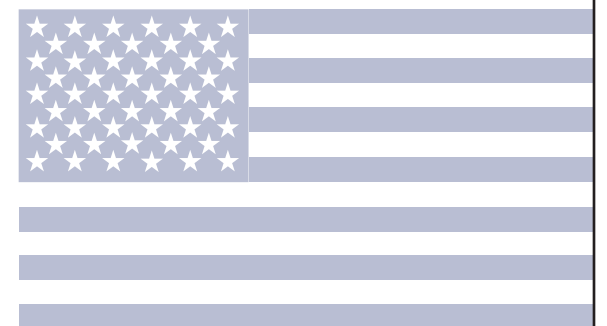
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JAMES ALLEN / THE BREEZE

DOUG SCHILLING | Club dodgeball



PHOTOS BY LOREN PROBISH / THE BREEZE

"I've given so much back to this school, I was fortunate enough to have people, role models in my life that I looked up to, that kind of shaped me to who I am today. I work to try and do to others what my role models did to me and become a leader among my peers."

MEG RICH | Club rugby



"It's all about giving back to a community that has given so much to you," Rich said. "JMU taught me that I can be exceptional and I'd love to teach that to someone else. I want to create a culture that gives back to things that have given to you."

MIKE DOLZER | WXJM-FM



"I think I represent the student body pretty well," Dolzer said. "Being someone that is a sexual minority, I am someone that is not necessarily 'cookie cutter,' but I still have the experience, the love and the warmth that this university puts forth to all its students."

HALEY LIPTON | Student Ambassadors



"There's nothing that makes me worthy," Lipton said. "If given that title, I'm going to use that platform to evoke change and growth. I want to make this experience as a finalist the most I can and connect with more people."

PEDRO ANTONIO BAIZA MARTÍNEZ | Club field hockey



"This place means so much to me," Martínez said. "I have given so much of my time to these organizations. I think that is what JMU's goal is — to provide the ability to create well-balanced citizens that can go out into the real world and balance many aspects of their life and still succeed. I think the title of Mr. Madison encompasses all that I have done to give to JMU."

BETHANY BOWMAN | SafeRides



"My goal isn't to win — it's to educate students on what SafeRides has to offer," Bowman said. "If more students call SafeRides and find a safe way home, I'm happy."

KRISTIAN KC | Student Government Association



"I am honored to be a finalist, but I also know most of the other people selected, I think ... they exemplify what it means to be Mr. Madison. Don't get me wrong, it would be great, but I have already had my moment of fame becoming class president. That alone is something that I will always remember. Those other guys definitely deserve the title more than I do."

LIZZET SUAREZ | Phi Mu



"Ms. Madison should embody the mission and passion we have here at JMU," Suarez said. "I'm very engaged on this campus and love the atmosphere along with the people. I'm so grateful for the experience here, especially being a first-generation college student."

COURTESY OF LIZZET SUAREZ

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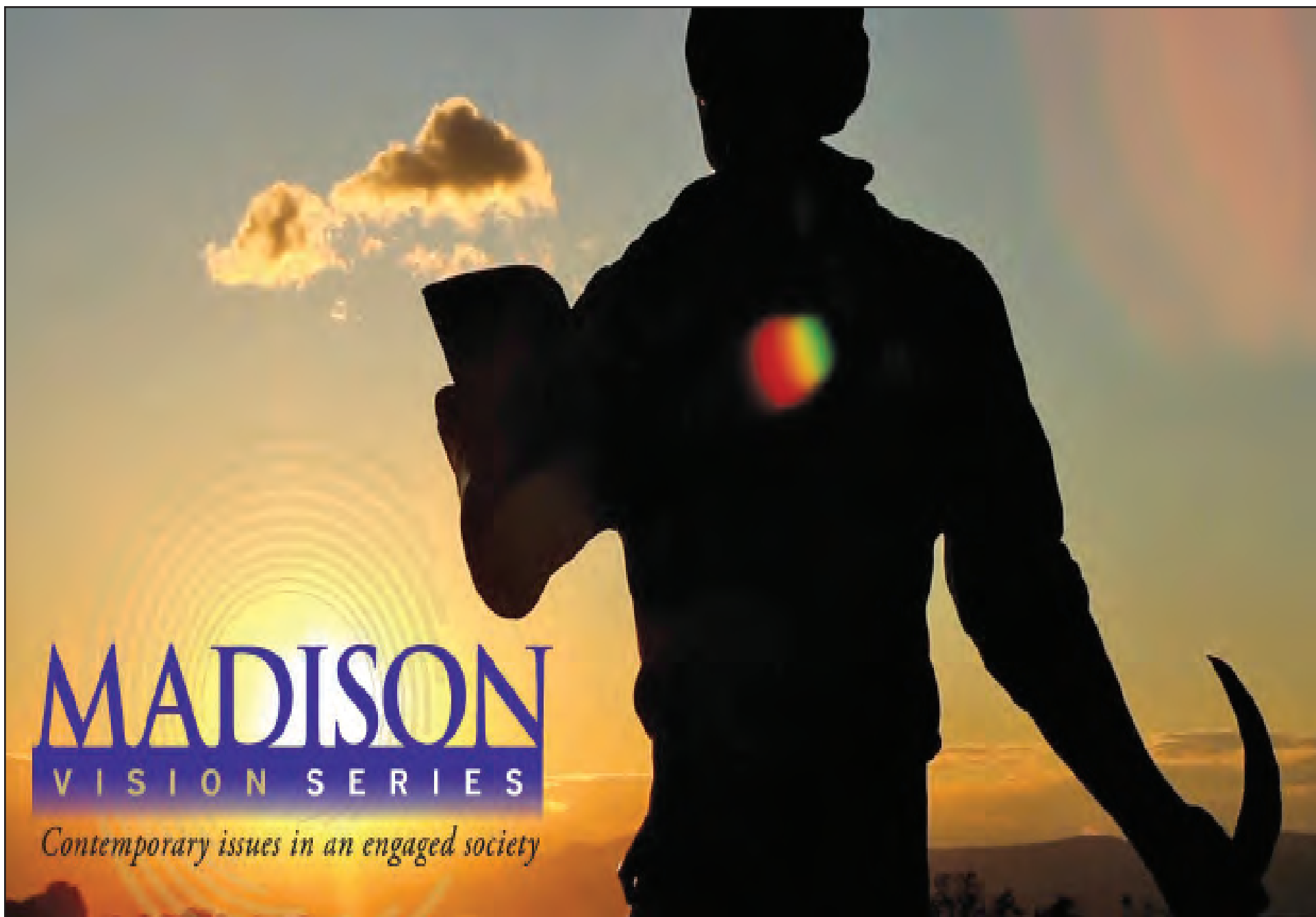
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Frozen in time

Former Breeze photo editor becomes freelance photographer for Newsweek and The Washington Post

By **JONAH HOWELLS**
contributing writer

For many students, hobbies are things that people do during their spare time. For most of his young life, photography was Stephen Jaffe's passion. Whether it was him helping his father carry heavy film equipment on the weekends or taking pictures himself, Jaffe grew up with a camera in his hand and a critical eye for the world.

Graduating from JMU in 1985, Jaffe is well known for his work as the resident photographer of the White House during Bill Clinton, George H.W. and George G.W. Bush's presidencies. Throughout his career, he's traveled to 110 countries and shot events such as the fall of the Berlin Wall and conflicts in Kuwait and Iraq.

Andy Perrine, associate vice president of communications and marketing for JMU, reached out to Jaffe to participate in international week. During this time, the office of international programs became the Center for Global Engagement, and with it brought a week of celebration during the week of Sept. 24. CGE's goal is to further cultivate and promote the cooperation of various cultures

and organizations. For activities, they brought in special guest speakers to talk with students about their experiences working with people from other countries and cultures.

Jaffe was invited to give a lecture in professor Dolores Flamiano's media arts and design class. Retired media arts and design professors Tommy Thompson and Dave Wendelken appeared to see Jaffe's presentation on his life's work.

"I was kind of taken aback just by how down-to-earth he was and how he was willing to talk about some of the mistakes early on the job," Flamiano said.

During the lecture, Jaffe explained that he was in college to have a good time. At one point, he showed the students one of his bad report cards during his first year at JMU. Everybody laughed, but it gave everyone in that lecture hall a unique perspective at how success is cultivated through passion and commitment.

"I think he was really making an effort to connect to students by saying 'Hey, I started out as someone like you, someone who was just looking to have a great time, until I stumbled into The Breeze,'" Flamiano said.

Jaffe started his career at The Breeze in 1983, working first as a photographer, then moving

up to a photo-editor position. He worked for the newspaper up until his senior year, recording as much as he could with his camera and rolls of film.

"It was a different time back then," Jaffe said. "Having that camera sort of worked as an all-access pass — I could get into any event I wanted just by being a photographer."

Jaffe's photography career didn't really take off until one late July afternoon in Washington, D.C. He was driving home from his internship with the Washington Post where he noticed a lot of police activity on the 14th Street bridge. It turns out that the district police gathered up 100 prostitutes and were forcing them to march out of Virginia,

kicking them out of D.C.

"I circled around, kind of scratching my head," Jaffe said. "This was just bizarre. It was out of the realm of reality."

see **TIME**, page 22



Page 8, The Breeze, Thursday, November 1, 1984
Halloween haunts

(Above) Karen Kulonda, a Harrisonburg resident, consoles her children, Susan, age 8 and Cindy, age 5 after a ghost spooked the girls at the Lambda Chi Tri Sigma haunted house.

Stacie Wendell, a JMU junior, casts her Halloween spell on the JMU campus.

Ghouls, ghosts and goblins didn't seem to frighten this crowd of trick-or-treaters. Lambda Chi and Tri Sigma annually sponsor a Halloween haunted house for the Harrisonburg area.

Photos by Stephen Jaffe

BREEZE FILE PHOTO

Jaffe took photos of games and events at JMU during his time at The Breeze.



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Jaffe came to JMU to talk about his successful career as a result of his work as a student photographer.

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TIME | JMU ('85) alumnus shares post-graduate experience as a photographer



PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEPHEN JAFFE

Although Jaffe works for the International Monetary Fund now, he believes his best work is from when he was a freelance photographer. He enjoys reflecting on the photographs he took of important figures.

from page 21

After circling back around, he started taking pictures of the women. Police then grabbed Jaffe and threw him against a car. Once he told the cops that he worked for The Washington Post, things changed. Eventually, the article and his photos made the front page of the paper that week. It didn't take long until local news stations started calling

for interviews. Newsweek noticed his work and hired him to work freelance, and the rest is history.

Joanne Gabbin, an English professor, was present during Jaffe's visit, and was very excited to see him after so much time has passed.

"I haven't seen Stephen since he was in my class back in 1985," Gabbin said. "He was the one who asked me to attend his lecture. It was very nice

talking to him after all these years."

Gabbin asked Jaffe about his scariest moments during his 30 years of photography. To her surprise, his response was his excursion in Senegal where he almost got kidnapped by a taxi driver. The driver kept driving him around to spike the price of the cab. Once they passed by the hotel, there was a band of men waiting for him.

"I expected him to say something

relating to shooting photos in a war zone," Gabbin said. "I did not expect a story such as that."

With everything that Jaffe has accomplished, he hasn't forgotten where it all started—right here at JMU.

"Looking back on it, working for The Breeze was one of the best experiences in my life," Jaffe said. "I didn't take a moment to enjoy and appreciate those experiences. I just

kept looking forward, trying to do the next best thing. And seeing your name in the paper every week was also a definite boost to your ego."

CONTACT Jonah Howells at howel2jm@dukes.jmu.edu. For more on the culture, arts and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Twitter @Breeze_Culture.

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CREEPIN' IT REAL THIS HALLOWEEN

Section writers have fun plans for the holiday

By MADDELYNNE PARKER
The Breeze

Boy, oh, boy. There are so many reasons to love Halloween, I don't know where to start.

First, the costumes. I love being able to dress up as my favorite superhero, Powerpuff Girl or childhood star. This year, you'll find me dressed up as one of my all-time favorites — Batman. Instead of being your everyday Dark Knight, I'll be Batman in a skirt. Girls can be Batman, too, so don't call me Batgirl or Batwoman. I am Batman. Horror movies are a go-to

no matter what time of year, but before Halloween they're even better. My favorites include "Constantine," "The Omen," "The Conjuring" and anything by M. Night Shyamalan. There's nothing better than curling up on the couch with friends and laughing at their inherent fears of the unknown. Luckily, I don't scare easily.

Don't even get me started on the Halloween puns. I would make a skeleton joke, but you wouldn't find it very humorous.

Last is the candy. As one with a major sweet tooth for anything sugary, Halloween is everything I need. From

Skittles, Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, Kit Kats, candy corn and that random apple the old lady down the street gave out, Halloween isn't just for the kids. It's for those of us young at heart and looking for a reason to let the child inside us out for a night.

So, jump into this Halloween season and trick or treat yo'self.

CONTACT Maddelynn Parker at parkermn@dukes.jmu.edu. For more on the culture, arts and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Twitter @Breeze_Culture.



CAT GRAPHIC BY JOURNEY HART / CONTRIBUTING DESIGNER



By ALYVIA KLUSKA
contributing writer

Witches, vampires, werewolves — the list could go on and on. Deciding on a perfect theme for my 2017 Halloween costume is a question that remains unanswered. The moment of officially committing to a costume has arrived. Mastering a themed costume not only gives me an opportunity to let my creative juices flow, but it also allows me to create memories with all of my closest friends. As a matter of fact, some of us may take on this year's Halloween as classic vampires.

The annual process of pinning on Pinterest, assigning costume roles and store hopping are the most thrilling parts of Halloween. The excitement peaks when we finally get to put our costumes into action. The sound of blaring music combined with synchronized hairdryers fills the apartment as we all scramble to get ready for the bewitching night ahead of us.

Making our way out on the town in our terrifying yet trendy costumes, we anxiously await the next best part of the night — determining who's what. My friends and I analyze all the creative costumes of our peers. The array of duos and masks

never ceases to amaze us.

All in all, I would say my absolute favorite part of Halloween is the fact that it's a holiday that welcomes people everywhere by giving its participants a chance to be whomever or whatever they want for multiple nights. On that note, it's time to put on your scariest mask and let the costume hunting begin. Happy Halloween JMU.

CONTACT Alyvia Kluska at kluskaam@dukes.jmu.edu. For more on the culture, arts and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Twitter @Breeze_Culture.

By EMILY MONTOYA
contributing writer

From the "13 Nights of Halloween" on Freeform to the Spirit Halloween store itself, I love everything about Halloween. Although there are many great things about the holiday, my No. 1 favorite feature of the holiday is seeing all the carved pumpkins and decorated houses. I love watching how creative everyone gets in spirit of the holiday. Back in my hometown of Newtown, Connecticut, there's a family who does an annual pumpkin-carving contest that receives hundreds

of entries to benefit the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, a non-profit organization that provides resources for healing to terminally ill children. On Halloween night, the family has an illumination ceremony where they light all of the jack-o'-lanterns that people have entered. Every year, my friends and I attend the ceremony and then afterward, we take a walk up Main Street where every house is themed and decked out in elaborate Halloween spreads. The families who live in the houses make sure to get into character by acting and dressing up to match the theme they've chosen that

year. My favorite house keeps the same theme every year, which they create under an enormous 40-foot mechanical spider that moves up and down along a creepy web. Ever since I was little, that family has been putting on the spider display and I've always looked forward to seeing it at some point on Halloween night.

CONTACT Emily Montoya at montoyaem@dukes.jmu.edu. For more on the culture, arts and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Twitter @Breeze_Culture.

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Defense wins championships



FOUR DOWNS OF THE WEEK

JMU football goes for 20th consecutive win Saturday against New Hampshire

JAMES ALLEN / THE BREEZE

JMU football forced six William & Mary turnovers in its 46-14 rout on Saturday. The Dukes are now 21-1 under head coach Mike Houston, including a 20-0 mark against FCS opponents over the past two seasons.

By **BLAKE PACE**
The Breeze

After claiming a victory over William & Mary, the attention of the Dukes — 7-0 (4-0 CAA) — turns to New Hampshire during homecoming weekend. Ranked 16th in the FCS Coaches Poll, the Wildcats are 5-2 (3-1 CAA) and are fresh off a 40-17 win against the Towson Tigers this past Saturday.

1. Getting to the quarterback

Facing one of their tougher matchups of the season, the Dukes will rely heavily on their pass rush in order to halt the Wildcats' offense. Led by junior quarterback Trevor Knight, the Wildcats' aerial attack is averaging over 283 yards per game and has 19 passing touchdowns on the season.

"He's improved tremendously from last year," head coach Mike Houston said. "I think that's really the big reason that they're playing the way they are offensively."

While the secondary will do its part in pass coverage, the JMU front seven will continue their dominant performance this season. After demolishing the Tribe offensive line last week after tying their season high of six sacks in a game, the Dukes now have 24 sacks on the year for a total of 149 yards lost. This will come in handy when they face an offensive line that's given up 23 sacks on the season.

"We [are] going to have to do a great job on not letting Knight be comfortable in the pocket," Houston said. "We're going to try to harass him and get him moving around as much as we can in the pocket to where he's making hurried and pressured throws."

Familiarity with their CAA foe plays into the hands of the Dukes' defense this week. After facing the Wildcats twice last season, the defense has a strong understanding of the slick quarterback's ability.

"We're very familiar with Trevor," redshirt senior defensive lineman Andrew Ankrah said. "We have different types of packages and things that we've run in the past to slow him down, so we just really want to make sure that we're focused on where he is and try to get as much pressure to him as possible."

In order to disrupt the quarterback and force him into making errant throws, look for the JMU front seven to put early pressure on this Wildcat offense.

2. Shutting down Neil O'Connor

Should the Dukes struggle early on in attacking the pocket and disrupting the quarterback, the JMU secondary will be faced with the tall task of containing the junior wide receiver and his playmaking abilities.

"We just have to be secure on how we handle O'Connor," Houston said. "We've got to stay on top of all his routes and do a great job of being competitive with him."

At this point in the season, O'Connor has 883 receiving yards, including four games with over 115 yards and a 232-yard outburst against the Rhode Island Rams. His 126.1 receiving yards per game rank fifth in the FCS and his nine touchdowns are tied for third.

"He's a precision-route runner, he has better than average speed and he has really great body control," Houston said.

This is far from a breakout campaign for the

wide out from Leominster, Massachusetts, as he earned All-CAA Football Third Team honors in 2016 after posting 834 yards and six touchdowns in his sophomore season. A haunting face for the Dukes, O'Connor went for 10 receptions and 192 yards when New Hampshire faced JMU last season.

"The more we're in [Trevor Knight's] face, the better it is for our defense as a whole," Ankrah said. "I know when that ball is in the air. I like our chances against any receiving core."

The Dukes will look to shut down this top receiver and make up for last year's mistakes in order to keep the New Hampshire offense off the field and out of the end zone.

3. Maintaining composure

One area of concern for the JMU offense this year has been turning the ball over, where 12 total turnovers and eight interceptions from senior quarterback Bryan Schor have left them practicing timing in practice.

"Last week was the first time all year that Terrence Alls, John Miller, Jonathan Kloosterman and Bryan Schor all practiced on the same day," Houston said. "We've got to just get everybody in the flow with consistency and practicing together."

While inconsistency has been a common issue for the offense this year, the Dukes have done a great job at recovering from their mistakes and staying composed through the finish of each contest.

"They're very resilient," offensive coordinator Donnie Kirkpatrick said. "You've got a quarterback that's experienced and very mature so he doesn't get riled. He's very confident in not just himself, but the players around him."

A key to victory for any team, look for the Dukes to stay composed and limit their poor decision-making against a Wildcat defense that has 10 interceptions and three forced fumbles.

4. Converting in the red zone

A consistent area of JMU's offense has been its ability to score in the red zone — they've scored on 30 of 35 opportunities, 23 of which have been touchdowns.

"We've done a great job on execution and playing together on that end of the field," Houston said. "Hopefully we can continue to get more balls in the end zone."

Finishing the job in the red zone will be paramount against the Wildcats, a unit that's allowed 22 red-zone scores on 29 opportunities. While New Hampshire is allowing a high red-zone conversion rate, under half of those opportunities result in a touchdown (14), making that an area of focus for the Dukes this weekend.

"The big thing is just being able to execute," Houston said. "When you get down into the red zone, everything gets condensed, so we just have to be more sharp."

While the Dukes would much rather put six on the board than three, they're also hoping to preserve the leg of junior starting kicker Tyler Gray, who was injured in their matchup against William & Mary.

Look for the Dukes to be aggressive in the red zone this week to secure a homecoming victory for JMU nation.

CONTACT Blake Pace at paceba@dukes.jmu.edu. For more football coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.

Numbers don't lie

JMU volleyball serving up CAA foes



TREVOR COCKBURN / THE BREEZE

By **ELI JENNINGS**
The Breeze

I'll go ahead and cut to the chase here: JMU volleyball is the best team in the CAA.

There you have it, I said it. We're done here — well, maybe not.

Now you could just take my word for it, but in the off-chance you need a little more proof, here's what I can tell you.

The Dukes are winning. The Miami/FIU Invitational was canceled earlier this year, so the 2017 team has played a few less games than planned, but for context, let's compare this year's team to the 2016 Dukes.

- * Dukes' record as of Oct. 26, 2016: 14-10 (.583 winning percentage)
- * Dukes' record as of Oct. 26, 2017: 16-4 (.800 winning percentage)

The Dukes are dramatically outpacing a team that won the CAA Championship last year.

On top of that, the team ranks in the top three in the CAA in hitting percentage (.261 success rate), opponent hitting percentage (.139 success rate), blocks (averaging 2.81 per set) and service aces (averaging 1.40 per set).

Against CAA teams, JMU ranks in the top

three across the board, including: lowest hitting percentage by opponents, fewest kills allowed per set by opponents, fewest assists per set by opponents, fewest service aces per set by opponents and fewest blocks per set by opponents.

"As far as the team categories go, we're in the top two for a lot, top five for a lot," head coach Lauren Steinbrecher said. "It shows we're not just, like, one player that's great, but we have a whole roster of really strong players that are doing well at their positions and helping our team create success."

This depth was showcased earlier this season when team captain Taylor Austin went down with a concussion. The senior defensive specialist is second all-time in JMU's record books for digs.

Sophomore defensive specialist Sarah Driscoll started during Austin's absence. She came through for the Dukes and earned CAA Co-Defensive Player of the Week honors, maintaining 5.75 digs per set average over a three-game stretch.

"I couldn't have gotten it without my teammates," Driscoll said. "They had a lot of good block setups and they kept pushing me and pushing me ... even in practice, they pushed me a lot."

The underclassman credits Austin for her

ability to lead by example.

"She's taught me to always be relentless and that you don't just have to rely on yourself, you can rely on your teammates," Driscoll said. "We see her all the time in practice — if she gets a dig, she pushes the hitters to get a kill and work harder to get a kill. From watching that I pushed to fill up her spot and play that role."

Austin returned to the lineup on Saturday, and led the Dukes with 16 digs over three sets in their sweep of UNCW.

Let's also not forget JMU players appear in all of the CAA individual leaderboards, with a player in the top 10 of every statistical category — including four JMU players who rank in the top ten in multiple categories.

One such player is M'Kaela White — who's first in the CAA in blocks (averaging 1.53 per set) and hitting percentage (40.9 percent success rate). Each of these measures is good for first in the conference by a wide margin.

"She comes in early almost every practice — she works super hard," junior outside hitter Bryn Recker said. "I think she's one of the most motivational players on our team. She brings great energy and along with that, she hypes up the rest of the team."

The Dukes are on the cusp of what looks to be another exciting postseason run. With the return

of Austin, the emergence of White, the above-average play of the starting lineup and a host of talented young players on the bench ready if their name is called, Steinbrecher has a lot to be excited about.

"I think we just have to continue to get better," Steinbrecher said. "We definitely have all the pieces and at times we show it, but we just have to be more consistent with the level of play we can compete at. The CAA is really good this year ... it's [all about] who can bring it the most consistently every night"

The Dukes return home this weekend for two CAA matches. They'll face W&M on Friday at 7 p.m. and Elon on Sunday at 1 p.m. The stats attest to the team's strength, but there's something that makes them so fun to watch.

"I love how close we all are and how passionate we all are about the end result and playing the game," Recker said. "We're all best friends — I think that's the most fun thing about playing together. The stats aren't what we strive for. Obviously we want to succeed on the court, but our culture is what makes us so successful."

CONTACT Eli Jennings at jenninel@dukes.jmu.edu. For more volleyball coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.

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TREVOR COCKBURN / THE BREEZE

Freshman fortitude

JMU women's soccer player Sophie Brause continues to impress

By **BLAKE PACE**
The Breeze

After a tremendous high-school-senior campaign in which she led the Scotch Plains-Fanwood LC to its seventh straight Union County Championship with six goals and 15 assists on the season, freshman midfielder Sophie Brause of the JMU women's soccer team was unsure of what to expect in her first collegiate season.

"I was really nervous coming into camp," Brause said. "But I didn't come in with any expectations. I came in knowing that if I wanted to play, I better work hard."

Her stellar play at both the SPF LC and her club soccer team, the Players Development Academy, caught the eyes of head coach David Lombardo and the rest of his staff early on in her high-school career.

"She had a real attacking

presence," Lombardo said. "One of the things that you look for in a player is the technical ability, but also the soccer IQ. She has both."

Working through camp and learning the ropes of collegiate soccer, Brause's first test came in her preseason debut when she was named a starter in JMU's opening match against Boston College. Playing a hearty 81 minutes, Brause earned her first career assist in the eventual 4-3 overtime loss. Her consistent play and dependability in her debut earned the respect and trust of her teammates and coaches.

"Freshman year is hard for everyone," senior forward Colleen Gawkins said. "But I think she showed very early on that she was going to be able to get into the mix and [be] a player that we could depend on."

While the Dukes have had an up-and-down season to this point — 8-8 (3-4 CAA) — Brause has continued

to develop into a key player on this team. Through her freshman year, Brause has tallied four assists and has a freshmen-high 1,082 minutes of playing time. Her consistent play on defense and durability has proven her to be a key commodity for the future of this team.

"She was kind of just thrown into it at the very start," Gawkins said. "She didn't really have any other choice and just knew that she needed to step up."

While hard work and consistent training have brought Brause to this level of play, she wastes no time in chalking up her success to the guidance she's received from her veteran teammates.

"It's a family atmosphere on and off the field," Brause said. "They become your best friends and your biggest critics. We bicker and we fight but we have the best times together and having that chemistry

is inspirational on the field."

A big boost in confidence came Oct. 12 in the Dukes' home matchup against CAA rival Towson, where they posted a 2-1 victory in overtime. Not only did Brause assist the game-tying goal in the 87th minute, but her assist in the 102nd minute to junior forward/midfielder Steffi Page sealed the win for JMU. Brause helped secure the win for the Dukes and push their record to .500 at the time, and for that, she earned CAA Player of the Week.

"It was an amazing honor," Brause said. "But it wouldn't have been done without my teammates on the field. I really had to use my teammates and that's something I don't think I could have done on any other team."

While her teammates and coaches were thrilled to hear of her accomplishment, they all knew deep down this was just a small honor she wouldn't hold on to for very long.

"She's a very humble kid," Lombardo said. "She enjoyed it for the moment, stuck that in her locker and was already on to the next game."

As for taking the next step in her legacy at JMU, Lombardo preached the necessity for her to hit the gym in the offseason and bulk up in order to make that next leap.

"When you come in as a freshman, you maybe do a little bit of weight training, but typically not that much," Lombardo said. "So she's going to have to hit the weights a little in the offseason."

While she'll continue to develop her craft on and off the field, Brause has laid the foundation in her freshman campaign for a long and fruitful career at JMU.

CONTACT Blake Pace at paceba@dukes.jmu.edu. For more soccer coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.

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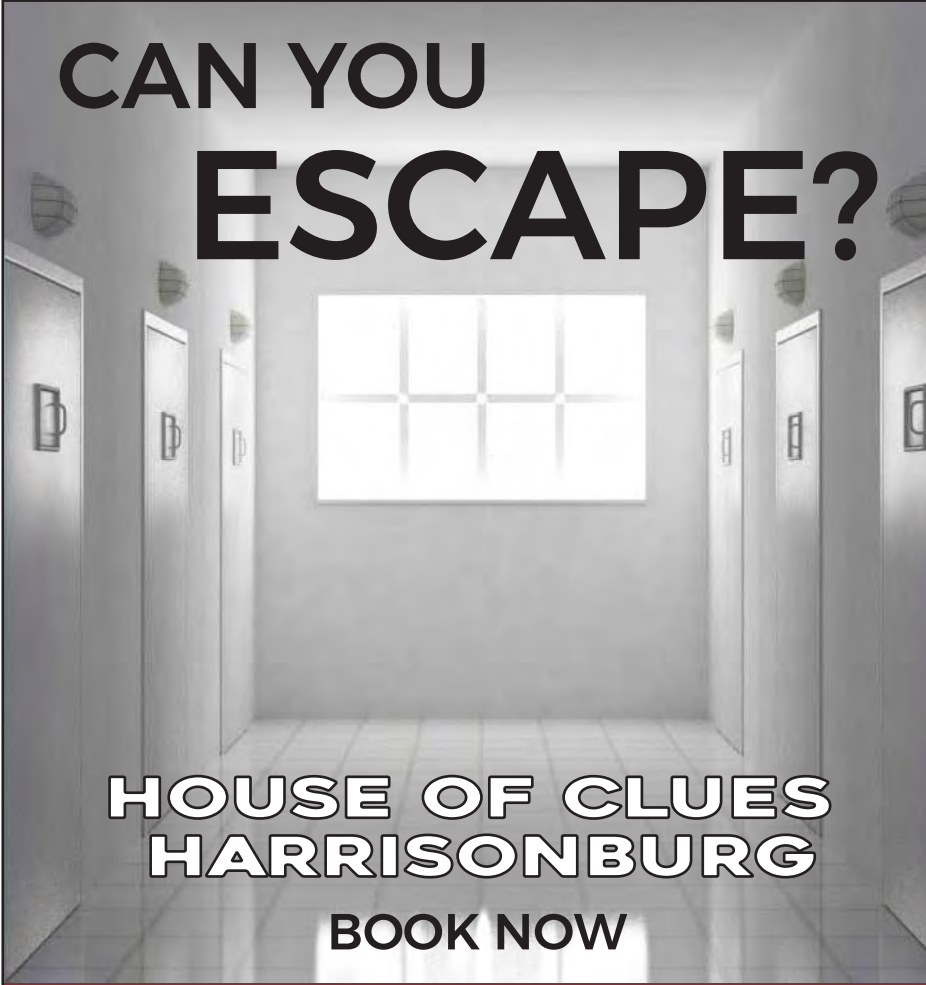
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Men's soccer striking distance from CAA glory

Finale vs. Drexel the only thing between JMU and a CAA regular season title

LAURA VANDEMARK / THE BREEZE

By **NOAH ZIEGLER**
The Breeze

There are many teams that prove expectations wrong, and the JMU men's soccer team has done just that this season. Picked in the preseason to finish tied for sixth place in the conference, the Dukes found themselves riding a four-match win streak before a 2-1 loss to Penn State. Despite the defeat, the Dukes still sit atop the CAA heading into their final regular season match.

A JMU win against Drexel would earn the Dukes their first CAA regular-season title since 2011 — but they haven't been coasting at the top all season. The Dukes went through a tough period when they lost to powerhouse North Carolina 6-0 and then fell in the last minute against the College of Charleston. They were in the midst of a tight conference race, and JMU needed to stay on track to achieve a CAA tournament spot. That's when head coach Tom Foley brought his team together and flipped the season's script.

"We took the experience of North Carolina and tried to put that into use and learn from that," Foley said. "We had to apply what we learned

for the rest of the season."

The turning point in the Dukes' quest for CAA glory came in the match after Charleston. Playing at Delaware, they found themselves tied 1-1 heading into the 87th minute. Then, sophomore forward Brennen Burton rose to the occasion and grabbed a late win for JMU.

"I wouldn't say it was me stepping up personally," Burton said. "I feel like as a team we all stepped up to the task. This year has been a strong year and it feels like everything is going our way at the moment."

Since its win over the Blue Hens, JMU won three consecutive games while scoring nine goals and conceding just one before the loss to the Nittany Lions. Senior forward Joe Vyner discussed a key factor in the Dukes' four-match winning streak.

"It was less about scoring goals than working hard," Vyner said. "We work hard, but if we get caught up on trying to score as many goals as possible, we get away from the game plan."

When a team is scuffling through a winless streak, a player stepping up to the occasion is a vital component in bringing them out of bad form and into a hot streak. Sophomore midfielder

Manuel Ferriol has scored six goals this season — tied for the best on the team — and has seen four of them come against CAA opponents. Despite earning CAA Player of the Week twice, Ferriol cited the team's effort as the key factor that'll help the Dukes extend their success into the final stretch of the season.

"I think the whole team has great momentum," Ferriol said. "We just have one goal and that's winning the CAA Championship. I couldn't do the things I've been doing without the team."

When players who've shined throughout the season attribute their success to the entire team, it not only says a lot about the maturity of the team, but also the chemistry. Despite not finishing the regular season atop the CAA, JMU has still found success in recent years. In 2014, the Dukes won the CAA tournament as the No. 6 seed. Vyner fondly recalls his memories of being a part of the team, and aims to use the lessons he learned to help the Dukes find success this year.

"I think we just have to stay humble," Vyner said. "We can't get too ahead of ourselves. Our main priority is the next game and taking it one game at a time."

The Dukes are a young team and still learning.

Despite a recent hot stretch and finding themselves on the cusp of winning a title, they hope to not get caught up in what could happen. Vyner sees it as a challenge, but the team aims to remain calm and focused.

"Although we've been very excited about the past four games, those aren't going to win the next games," Foley said. "We have to look at it game by game, and the next on the list is Penn State, and then we'll worry about Drexel after that."

Given the top-to-bottom strength of the CAA this year, a clinching win over Drexel this Saturday would be a remarkable accomplishment for the men's soccer program.

"The CAA is a very difficult conference to win," Foley said. "Every team beats each other. To be the team that gets through the conference schedule and be successful is a great thing. To be able to host the conference tournament is a significant plus for us moving forward."

CONTACT Noah Ziegler at zieglenh@dukes.jmu.edu. For more soccer coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.

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by Linda Thistle

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