The Weekly Ringer

The University of Mary Washington's Independent Student Newspaper
Serving the community since 1922

VOLUME 99 | ISSUE 18

April 17, 2026



UMW men's basketball wins national title, defeating Emory University in championship game

Jadon Burgess holds the championship trophy after the team's buzzer-beater win.

Thomas Jackson / The Weekly Ringer

INSIDE THE RINGER

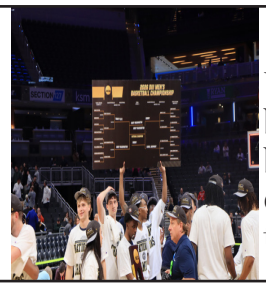
News | 2
Students travel halfway across the country to watch UMW



Opinion | 3
Op-Ed: Celebrating UMW a decade after graduation



Life | 4
UMW celebrates the 100th anniversary of Devil-Goat Day



Sports | 8
UMW men's basketball brings championship title to FXBG

The Weekly Ringer
Editorial Staff

Editor-in-Chief
Callie Harkins
weeklyringer.eic@gmail.com

Executive Editor
Ky Huynh
weeklyringer.executive@gmail.com

Associate Editors
Emma Kingkeo
Grace Wagner
Thomas Jackson
weeklyringer.associate@gmail.com

News Editor
Meaghan Van Dyke
weeklyringer.news@gmail.com

Opinion Editor
Ella Cordle
weeklyringer.opinion@gmail.com

Life Editor
Chloe McCann
weeklyringer.life@gmail.com

Sports Editor
Enya Cea-Lavin
weeklyringer.sports@gmail.com

Online Editor
Sophia Tompkins
weeklyringer.online@gmail.com

Photography Editors
Anna Goodman
Violet Ayers
weeklyringer.photos@gmail.com

Copy Editor
Kyra Donlon
weeklyringer.copy@gmail.com

Faculty Advisor
Sushma Subramanian
ssubrama@umw.edu

Corrections

Please report any corrections to Callie Harkins at weeklyringer.eic@gmail.com or Sushma Subramanian at ssubrama@umw.edu

Advertisement

Please direct all advertising inquiries to Callie Harkins at weeklyringer.eic@gmail.com

Bell tower logo designed by Bernadette D'Auria '22

Students travel across state lines to watch UMW win Championship in Indianapolis

MEAGHAN VAN DYKE
News Editor

On April 5, UMW men's basketball pulled off a buzzer-beater championship win against Emory University in the final few seconds of the game to secure the school's first national title. While the game took place in Indianapolis, over 600 miles from the Anderson Center at UMW, the Eagles' student section was packed as if it were a home game.

"Everyone made the same face. Our jaws dropped and our eyes got so big because we were all so amazed," said Maggie Winters, a junior English major who attended the game. "It was actually, I think, top 10 UMW moments of the school's history."

Winters, along with nearly 100 current UMW students and 200 more alumni and staff members, was able to attend the game thanks to an initiative to bus students over 14 hours to see the Athletic Department's first championship game in over 30 years.

The initiative, according to Executive Director of University Communications Amy Jessee, resulted from the combined efforts of Athletics, the Office of Student Affairs and the Office of Advancement and Alumni Engagement. The buses themselves, Jessee said, were largely funded by independent donations.

"We received funding for the buses during Mary Wash Day," Jessee said. "Board of Visitors member John Anstey '93 and his wife, Kara Matala '94, as well as Tim Pohanka '92, made philanthropic gifts to support the bus costs which total just over $16,000."

By the time registration closed, nearly 100 students had signed up.

Winters, along with their roommate, Abby Powers, a junior biomedical sciences major, decided they would go together.

"I also heard about it through the email, and I was like, I feel like this is kind of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Powers said. "Not a lot of times I'm in college and I can have a trip where they might win a national championship and make history for my school that I love. So I was like, I kind of have to do that."

Similarly, Ryder Ward, a senior communication and digital studies major, decided to attend the game in person for the chance to see a potentially historic win for UMW.

"Sports have sucked since I've been here. This is the first time they've been half decent. I want to be there when they win the freaking championship," Ward said.

Ward, who attended both the in-person game via school-sponsored transportation and the Roar Soar Send Off on March 31, also noted that the anticipation and school spirit around the game were major driving points in their decision to go.

"I'm expecting a lot of Eagle pride. I'm expecting a lot of the students to be excited about getting to go, getting to see the game, and getting this trip of a lifetime," Ward said.

Through both funding from the university and donations from alumni, two buses were scheduled to leave campus early Saturday morning. The buses stopped at a hotel in Columbus, OH, approximately three hours away from the stadium, and then students were bused to Indianapolis early Sunday morning.

Upon arrival at the stadium, students bused to the game were given access to an alumni pregame event and NCAA-sponsored events around the stadium. Students were given specific seats in the stadium reserved as the UMW student section.

"When I told them that we were going to have a lot of students–well over 100, maybe 200, maybe even 300–they were just blown away, and it just meant a lot to them."

– Troy Paino

"They did a great job of picking out seats," Powers said. "It felt like a [designated] student section. It wasn't like, 'Hey, get in the nosebleeds.' They were nice seats."

In addition to the students bused to the game, alumni and staff also traveled to show their support. Among those in attendance were Jessee and University President Troy Paino, who spoke with the team about support from the school community before the game.

"It means a lot to the team," Paino said. "I had dinner with them last night, and when I told them that we were going to have a lot of students—well over 100, maybe over 200, maybe even 300—they were just blown away, and it just meant a lot to them."

That excitement, he added, speaks to the lasting impact this experience will have.

"It's one of those things where you'll remember the rest of your life. If you're a player or you're a student who's going to support the team, this is one of those things that just doesn't come around," Paino said.

Before traveling to Indianapolis, Marcus Kahn, head coach of the team, said the proposal was encouraging to the players.

"Knowing that other students—their peers—are going out of their way to come watch them and support them certainly gives us all a little extra boost," he said. "Knowing that the school's taking the time to get a bus, the students have taken the time and commitment to riding a bus to Indianapolis and going into the game for sure, just knowing that we have that support behind us definitely gives us an energy boost."

For many players on the team, including junior psychology major Jadon Burgess, the energy from the student section played a key role in the Eagles' success against Emory.

"Having students there and having our own student section definitely amplified the feelings of the game, and I think it just really brought out the energy and knowing that we have people behind us and kind of just put wind in our sails to continue playing as hard as we could," Burgess said.

From the student perspective, the lively atmosphere helped keep spectators energized as well.

"I feel like we had a really good energy as a student section throughout the whole game, even when it started to get stressful in the very last seven minutes, and then especially in the last 30 seconds when it was 73-73 and I thought I was gonna throw up," Winters said.

Whereas the game kept the energy going the whole time, Powers and Winters were both grateful to be there to support after several empty student section games.

"Just being at the game and knowing they were supported was fantastic, because I saw their semifinals and the videos of it, and the stands were empty, and that broke my heart. That's one of the reasons I was like, 'Oh, I'm gonna be on that bus,'" Powers said. "They're going to have people cheering loud for them at this game even if it kills me."

Both Powers and Winters expressed gratitude for the school and the experience as a whole.

"I think it was one of the best experiences I've had while being a student here," Winters said. "I think it was really worth the bus ride."

As two Student Life employees, Winters and Powers especially appreciated the effort put into making the proposal a reality.

"So thankful for Student Life for throwing us together, because we know from our perspective, working with student life, that it wasn't an easy feat," Powers said. "It was a lot extra on their plate, it means everything to me that they still put in the effort, because this was an experience that I will always be thankful for."

Powers, who kept the basketball stuffed animal given to students who were bused to the game as part of the "swag bag," is even planning on getting it tattooed to commemorate the event. Powers is planning on getting the tattoo on her left thigh and has named the basketball Boris.

"Boris is going to symbolize the fact that I love this university, and how proud I am of our school and our team," Powers said.

Op-Ed: Celebrating UMW a decade post-graduation

CHRIS MARKHAM
Contributing Writer

In the early spring of 2014, the University of Mary Washington was experiencing something it never before had—a winning basketball team. Being the bright-eyed and eager freshman that I was, I quickly went all-in on this buzz. Led by other members of my freshman class, we were the ones near the front of the student section clad in body paint and skin-tight morph suits during their hosting of the Sweet Sixteen and Elite Eight games.

That team's run ended with a decisive loss in the Elite Eight round, but that hardly mattered. I had just seen my college's basketball team host and win an NCAA tournament game. "I could get used to this," I thought as a freshman.

"So go ahead, graduate and be unabashedly proud of your school. Keep up with its teams, even though you don't know them. Talk and post about that small school in Fredericksburg and when people ask about it, tell them what a great place it is."

– Chris Markham

Fast-forward one month to when UMW made the surprise move away from the coach who led them to their best season ever for the up-and-coming Marcus Kahn. The move was met by students with confusion, leading to a hesitancy to embrace Kahn. The years that followed were OK, but never matched the success of that freshman year. As a result, school spirit waned.

It's now been nearly a decade since I graduated college. In that decade, UMW athletics (aside from my former cross country and track team) has rarely crossed my mind or my news feed. My group chats with college friends are not centered around the Eagles' playoff game against Salisbury or UMW's chances against CNU in soccer.

But this year, when UMW was consistently ranked in the national poll and their tournament run ran deeper and deeper, the chats changed. UMW was "cool" again and not for the memories we made while we were there, but instead for the things that were happening now. Basking in UMW's success didn't feel like living in the past or "peaking" in college. My news feed was flooded with people I never talk to anymore sharing Colin Mitchell's game-winner, including ESPN. With each post I saw about it, my pride in my alma mater grew. I felt connected with these people and the school more than I had in the last decade since graduating.

UMW doesn't carry the aura (to use a Gen Z term) that a large Division I school does. My father graduated from the University of Virginia, so I grew up with a 'V' in my face everywhere I went. I love UMW, but I cannot say my son will grow up bleeding blue and gray. It's just not that kind of school. Still, he watched every minute of UMW's championship game with me and saw my emotions swing in startling ways. He could tell how important it had become to me and now, he can recreate Mitchell's game-winner on his Little Tikes hoop.

Seniors—as you prepare to graduate, here's my plea: don't be afraid to love UMW. It'll change in ways you don't love. Buildings you lived in will get knocked down. The logo will change and get "mixed reactions." But all of the reasons you love the school now will still be true when you're gone.

So go ahead, graduate and be unabashedly proud of your school. Keep up with its teams, even though you don't know them. Talk and post about that small school in Fredericksburg and when people ask about it, tell them what a great place it is. And when you sing "All hail, dear Alma Mater" on Ball Circle on your last day, take those final words to heart: "Our love will never die."



UMW alum Chris Markham recalls a basketball win from his freshman year in 2014. *Photo courtesy of Chris Markham*

College is short, don't waste your chance to study abroad

CAROLINE PREUSS
Staff Writer

Go abroad if you can.

Not everyone has the opportunity to study abroad. For some, it is simply too expensive. For others, it does not fit into their degree, their responsibilities or their personal circumstances. But for those who do have the option, even if it requires effort, planning or stepping into uncertainty, choosing not to go is often less about circumstance and more about comfort. Students who have the opportunity to study abroad should take it, rather than letting fear stand in the way of a life-changing experience.

At home, identity is reinforced constantly by friends, habits and expectations you may not even be aware of. You know how things work, you know how people see you and you move within that without really questioning it.

Abroad, those structures disappear. No one knows who you are supposed to be. There is no fixed role you have to fall back into. And while that can feel disorienting at first, it also creates space to redefine yourself.

That process is not always comfortable. There is a tendency to romanticize studying abroad as a perfect adventure, but the reality is often more complicated, possibly being isolating at first.

Conversations may feel forced, simple tasks unexpectedly difficult. You may find yourself missing the ease of familiarity more than you anticipated. Things that used to be automatic suddenly require effort and attention. You have to step out of your comfort zone.

But growth doesn't happen when everything feels easy. It happens when you have to adapt, deal with uncertainty and figure things out on your own. That is exactly what being abroad does.

That might mean solving practical problems, dealing with unfamiliar situations or simply getting through difficult days. Over time, those experiences add up. You stop overthinking every step and start trusting that you will manage, even if things don't go exactly as planned.

Living in a different culture confronts you with alternative ways of thinking. You begin to notice differences not just in language or behavior but in beliefs and what matters most in everyday life.

That shift helps you see things from a different perspective. You become more aware in how you approach situations, conversations and even your own decisions. You start to see beyond your own perspective.



UMW's Center for International Education facilitates study abroad, located within Lee Hall. Anna Goodman / *The Weekly Ringer*

Improving your language is often mentioned as one of the main reasons to go abroad, but it goes beyond that. When you use another language every day, it becomes part of your routine.

Over time, it just feels normal. That's something you can't really learn in a classroom, rather it comes from using the language in real, everyday situations.

Also, friendships abroad tend to develop under different conditions. There is a shared sense of uncertainty but also of openness. Everyone is in a similar position trying to figure things out and adjusting to something new.

As a result, relationships often develop more quickly and with a different intensity. You connect over shared experiences rather than shared history. That creates a different kind of bond.

In the end, you don't just come back with skills or memories, you come back with a different mindset. You become more adaptable and more willing to take risks because you've already been in situations that felt unfamiliar and learned how to handle them.

This is why the decision to go abroad, when it is an option, is a decision worth thinking about more. It is easier to stay in your comfort zone and avoid the uncertainty of being somewhere new, but stepping out of it is worth it in the end.

A semester abroad does not guarantee personal growth. Not everyone will have a life-changing experience, but it creates the conditions in which that kind of change becomes possible. It puts you in situations that challenge you in ways your usual environment does not.

So if going abroad is an option for you, take it. Not just for the experience, but for everything you gain: new perspectives, independence and personal growth.

UMW celebrates the 100th anniversary of Devil-Goat Day

ALEXA DELACONCEPCION
Staff Writer

On April 23, UMW students will trade their typical routines of going to class and studying at home for rivalry and fun, as they divide into Devils and Goats for a competitive tradition that has shaped campus life for a century.



A glimpse into UMW's limbo contest that took place in 1989 on Devil-Goat Day. *@devilgoatday.archive / Instagram*

What began as a small, class-based rivalry has grown into one of UMW's most recognizable and memorable traditions.

Devil-Goat Day dates back to 1926, when faculty member Kramer Dodd sponsored the junior class. The class selected the goat as their symbol, prompting seniors to choose the devil and ultimately sparking a rivalry that would define the campus tradition for years.

Eventually, alternating classes were formally designated as goats or devils, and competitions between class years gradually evolved into what is now known as Devil-Goat Day.

While today's event is concentrated into just an afternoon of activities, it was not always coordinated this way. In its earliest years, competition between devils and goats was spread throughout the entire academic year.

That year-long format is something senior anthropology and historic preservation double major Makayla Bowman, a student researcher in the library's Special Collections and University Archives, explored in her exhibit commemorating the tradition's 100-year history.

"Similar to how the Hogwarts houses in Harry Potter would compete for points throughout the year, Devils and Goats would compete in sports games like volleyball, field hockey, and basketball spread throughout the year and kept track of the points cumulatively," Bowman said. "After the tradition was reduced to just the last Thursday of classes, Devil-Goat Day would begin as early as 6:00 a.m with races and hunts similar to capture the flag."

Bowman noted that the structure and tone of the event have changed in response to broader historical and cultural moments, such as World War II, the university becoming coeducational in 1972, economic challenges in the early 2000s and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Both Bowman and Associate Vice President for Alumni and Donor Engagement Mark Thaden highlighted the late 1980s and early 1990s as a period when Devil-Goat Day began to lose momentum, partially due to a lack of funding.

In response, first-year class officers reimagined the event by introducing music, climbing walls, jousting, inflatable games, and the signature tug-of-war competition.

"If there had not been rejuvenation efforts made by the students back in the 1990s, I think it's possible that the tradition would not be as prominent as it is today," Thaden said.

The students' initiative to save our beloved campus tradition is a key reason why Devil-Goat Day remains annual, while other traditions have faded out, according to Thaden.

"I think the tradition has lasted for two reasons," Thaden said. "First, it's unique to Mary Washington. It's one of those 'if you know, you know' situations. Also, there is pride associated with being either a Devil or a Goat, and it builds camaraderie with classmates."

Bowman also emphasized the emotional connection students form with the event.

"Devil-Goat Day is something so unique to UMW, and it demonstrates the consistency of the fabric that ties together all UMW students, alumni, and faculty," she said.

That emotional connection extends beyond a single day of competition. For many alumni, Devil-Goat Day remains one of the most memorable parts of their college experience. Traditions like tug-of-war, wheelbarrow races and even mechanical bull riding have left lasting impressions, with some alumni, according to Thaden, recalling the excitement of lining up early just to secure a Devil or Goat T-shirt.

"Strong traditions create cherished lifelong memories," Thaden said. "When they come back to visit campus, they can picture themselves in the middle of Ball Circle with their friends and classmates competing for the win."

For current students, however, Devil-Goat Day is often less about its origins and more about the experience itself.

"In my opinion, it is more about the experience because it's an opportunity to meet new people and truly connect more to my campus," said Leiauna Copeland, a freshman psychology and history double major.

Like many others, she also emphasized the sense of community that comes with participating, noting that even casual involvement can make people feel more at home.

"It reminds me of elementary school field days,." said Copeland.

At the same time, not all students enjoy Devil-Goat Day in the same way. Some see it as more of a social event than a meaningful tradition, choosing to participate selectively or not at all.

"I don't actually care which side wins, I'm just there to have fun and be with my campus community and friends," said junior communication and digital studies major Emma Lusk.

The balance between competition and inclusivity is part of what continues to set Devil-Goat Day apart from other traditions.

"Devil-Goat Day demonstrates that Mary Wash is a place that fosters lighthearted competition," said Bowman. "At the end of the day [...] we're all Eagles."

As the university prepares for the 100th anniversary, that sense of connection is especially significant. Reaching a century is not just a marker of time, but a reflection of the continued effort by students and the university to keep the tradition alive.

Bowman, reflecting on her research and personal experience, expressed confidence that Devil-Goat Day will continue to evolve while maintaining its core identity.

"The Devils and Goats have always persisted," she said. "I'd like to believe that they will continue to persist for another 100 years."

Thaden shared a similar perspective, emphasizing the continued enthusiasm surrounding the event.

"It's part of the fabric of the student experience," he said. "I do not see that changing anytime soon."

As April 23 approaches, students will once again choose sides, gather on Ball Circle, and take part in a tradition that has connected generations of Mary Washington students.



Devil-Goat Day's rich history goes back a century. In 1986, UMW students gathered on Ball Circle for a wheelbarrow race. Fun competition continues to be a crucial component to the tradition. *@devilgoatday.archive / Instagram*

Zac Thomas passes torch to next UMW NASA president



When Zac Thomas graduates in the spring, he will leave behind a legacy for the next president of UMW's Native American Student Association. *Violet Ayers / The Weekly Ringer*

ALLA ABDELHALIM
Contributing Writer

In connecting with his community while balancing school and work, senior studio art major Zac Thomas has spent his time on campus moderating educational panels, getting featured in exhibits at local museums and organizing social events in celebration of his Afro-Indigenous heritage as President of UMW's Native American Student Association (NASA).

This semester, Thomas's presidency is sadly coming to an end as he graduates in the spring, leaving behind the organization he has worked hard to expand over the last two years.

"I feel it's a necessity for me to be who I am in the space where I'm at and represent my cultural identity wherever I go," he said. "Whether that meant being the only person in the group, or having other people in the group, it was important to me to get out and find out more about the indigenous landscape in Virginia."

Chris Williams, assistant director of the James Farmer Multicultural Center and Multicultural Student Affairs, has served as the advisor to NASA for the past seven years.

Originally, Williams had been introduced to Thomas by Jason Sellers, associate professor of History, two years ago when Williams was searching for a new NASA president.

"When I first met [Thomas], we really hit it off. From then on, he's been a very integral part of not only the Native American Student Association's success, but the center's success," said Williams.

Alongside working, studying and leading events, Thomas took Ava Hild, NASA's new social media coordinator and a sophomore accounting major, under his wing to experience the celebrations and learn what NASA is all about.

As the semester goes on, Hild is working directly with Thomas to understand the responsibilities of being NASA's president and what a semester typically entails.

"Watching him run the club is really inspiring because he does everything, and he knows a lot of things. It makes me want to learn more from him," said Hild.

Thomas's advice for future leaders of NASA is to learn the landscape that you fit in, the wider area that you inhabit.

"You can't just stay in one place and think that you're learning," said Thomas. "Learning is also going out in the community and applying the skills, going to coffee shops, talking to store owners and asking about opportunities that they may know, and some of the things that you're interested in getting to know people in the community."

Thomas is a member of the Turtle Clan of the Muskogee Creek Nation of Oklahoma. Similar to city-states, the Muskogee people have towns full of several families or clans that govern specific areas.

"We have a bunch of Incorporated counties within our reservation. It's a bunch of different towns and stuff that are all within the Muskogee Creek Nation. We're sovereign. We have three branches of government," said Thomas.

Williams hopes to find someone who will live up to Thomas's reputation as NASA president.

"[I want] someone who's just as passionate, dedicated, committed and really focused and detail-oriented, that's what it takes to be a student leader, specifically for president of NASA," he said.



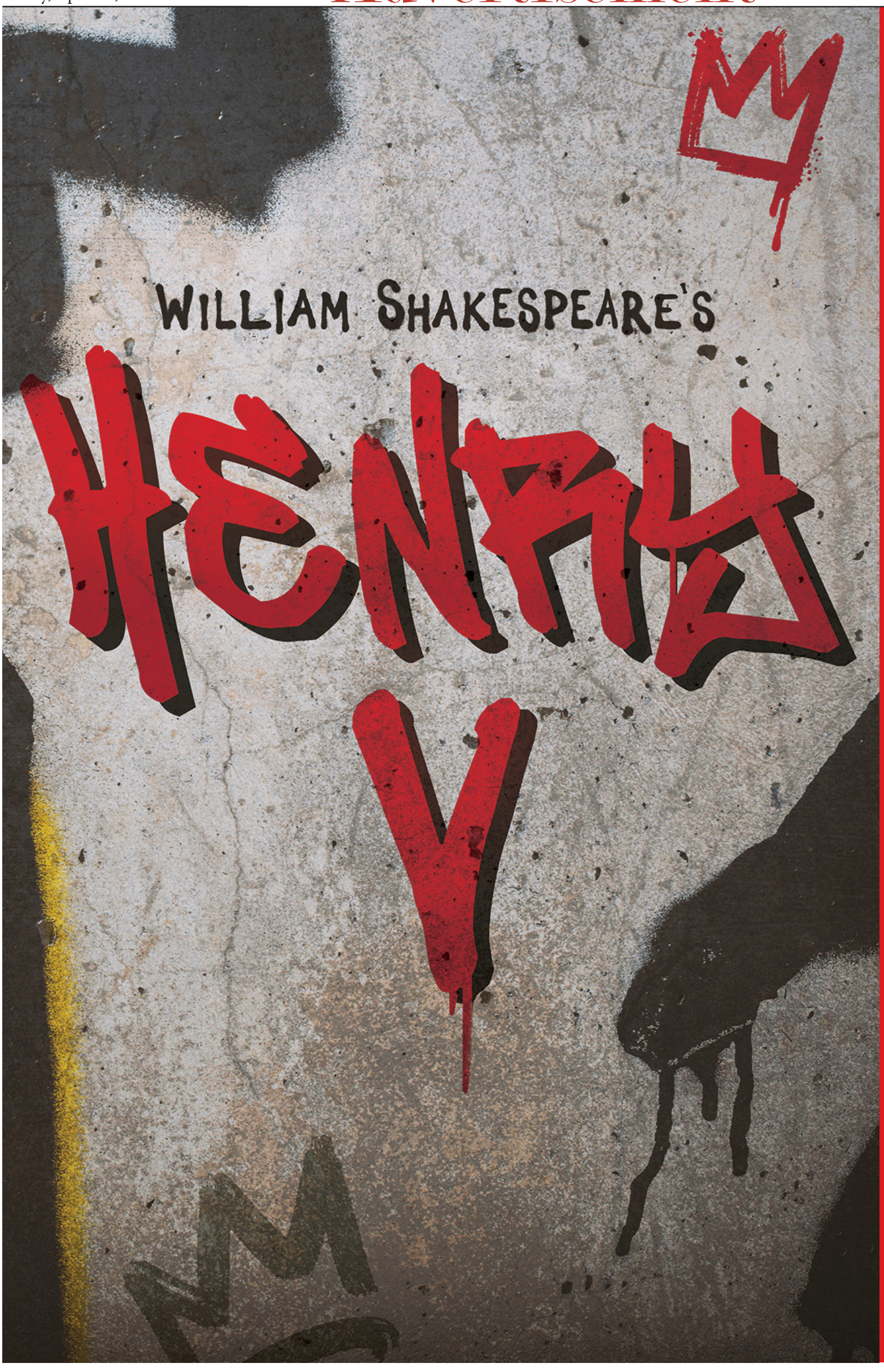
For two years the president of NASA has devoted his time to planning events for the organization. Now, as he graduates, we reflect on his various accomplishments . *Violet Ayers / The Weekly Ringer*

Despite being one of four active members of NASA, Thomas has continued to create a space to celebrate his heritage.

"Being able to bring indigenous culture to UMW has been a life-changing experience for me," said Thomas.



The next UMW NASA president has large shoes to fill. Thomas and his continued commitment toward celebrating his heritage is something thats hard to find. *Violet Ayers / The Weekly Ringer*



UMW THEATRE

TICKETS ARE $5 w/ UMW ID AT
THE KLEIN THEATRE BOX OFFICE
IN THE LOBBY OF DUPONT HALL
(Limit TWO tickets per UMW ID)

OPEN IN KLEIN THEATRE
NOW THRU APRIL 19

Rising gas prices across country affect daily student travel

ANN KARR
Staff Writer

Gas prices have risen dramatically in recent weeks, creating financial pressure for students commuting to campus.

Across the country, gas prices continue to rise sharply due to recent global oil price fluctuations, with the cost per gallon rising to nearly $5 in some states. According to Associate Professor of Economics Don Lee, gas prices are high because global oil supplies have been disrupted by the Iran conflict and the closure of key shipping routes, particularly the Strait of Hormuz.

"I still have to get to class, and during our last semester of nursing school, we have to go to our farthest campus, which is about an hour away. So that's gonna take a toll on my pocket money."

- Samantha Torres

"Even though the U.S. produces a lot of oil, we still pay global prices for oil," he said. "Oil is traded on a world market, and U.S. refineries buy crude at those global prices."

The increase in gas prices is creating more and more problems for students' day-to-day lives.

"I'm very deeply affected by the rising gas prices," Samantha Torres, a senior nursing major, said. "Because I'm in the nursing program, I have to travel to different hospitals as well as classes off campus."

Torres went on to explain how the increase to nearly $5 a gallon had a drastic impact on her budget. The last time she filled her gas tank, it cost $70.

Torres said she has limited nonessential driving, though academic responsibilities make travel necessary during her final semesters in the nursing program.

"I try not to go out as much as possible," she said. "However, with the degree that I have, it's really hard not to."

Torres explained that commuting has become a daily source of stress as prices continue to rise.

"I still have to get to class, and during our last semester of nursing school, we have to go to our farthest campus, which is about an hour away. So that's gonna take a toll on my pocket money," she said.

Like Torres, many other students are continuing to change their daily driving habits as gas costs continue to rise and put a strain on their budgets.

"I think I hold off on going to get gas a lot more than I used to," said Quinn Davenhall, a junior marketing major. "Now I really try to push it down to the single digits of miles before I stop and go get gas."

Davenhall continued, explaining that it's getting increasingly difficult to find money in his budget to get from place to place.

"I've started walking to school more," he said. "I don't really drive myself to campus at all anymore."

As a commuter-heavy campus, UMW has many students who rely on their cars to get to classes, internships and jobs.

"I think it's walker-friendly for people who live on campus," Torres said. "But it is a commuter school, so a lot of students are paying more."

Lee explained that as the global oil prices rise, gas prices follow. These higher prices are expected to move throughout the U.S. economy by increasing transportation and production costs, ultimately affecting consumers.

"Higher oil prices raise the cost of things like diesel fuel, fertilizer, and plastics," he said.

Professor of international relations Ranjit Singh explained that global uncertainty surrounding the conflict has played a major role in driving prices higher. He said the disruption of the Strait of Hormuz, which is a critical oil shipping route through which about 20% of the world's petroleum typically passes through.

"I think I hold off on going to get gas a lot more than I used to. Now I really try to push it down to the single digits of miles before I stop and get gas."

- Quinn Davenhall

"When a conflict breaks out in a place where oil is produced, refined, or shipped, like the Persian Gulf, every producer and consumer is eventually affected worldwide," Singh said.

According to Singh, gas prices are likely to remain elevated as long as the Iran conflict continues and the Strait of Hormuz remains disrupted.



Gas prices are up to nearly $5 per gallon, affecting students who drive to and around UMW. *Violet Ayers / The Weekly Ringer*

Lee said that even if the conflict is resolved soon, prices would likely stay high for several months before stabilizing.

Lee explained that commuter students are impacted the most, but non-commuter students also feel the effects as higher transportation costs increase the prices of consumer goods.

"More students will likely work additional hours to cover higher costs," Lee said. "That leaves less time for coursework and increases the risk of academic decline."

As gas prices stay constantly high, UMW students continue to adjust to the financial strain. Commuter students face higher transportation costs, while non-commuter students still feel the effects when trying to get from place to place. As long as global disruptions continue, rising costs are going to remain a huge challenge for students across campus.

Crime Column

MEAGHAN VAN DYKE
News Editor

The Crime Column is based on UMW Police reports from April 1 to April 15.

Larceny of cash

On April 8 at 5:20 p.m., there was a case of larceny of cash at University dining.
This case is pending.

Larceny of Bike

On April 2 at 3:39 p.m., there was a case of larceny of bike at Alvey Parking Deck.
This case is pending.

Larceny of Bike

On April 12 at 8:24 p.m., there was a case of larceny of bike at the HCC bike rack.
This case is pending.

Trespass Notice

On April 14, at 9:18 p.m., there was a trespass notice at the HCC area.
The notice was served.

UMW men's basketball brings a championship title back to the 'Burg

THOMAS JACKSON
Associate Editor

This originally appeared in the April 10 online edition of The Weekly Ringer.

On April 5, the University of Mary Washington men's basketball team won its first NCAA DIII Championship in program history, claiming victory against Emory University. Sophomore forward and business administration major Colin Mitchell scored a game-winning buzzer-beater to end the match with a final score of 75-73.

Capping off a historic season, the Eagles came into the game with the best record in program history. Starting strong, Mary Washington led 17-9 with 10 minutes left in the first half.



UMW men's basketball dribbles toward victory in the championship. *Thomas Jackson / The Weekly Ringer*

This lead would diminish, before vanishing, with Emory leading 30-28 going into halftime. When reflecting on the game, Head Coach Marcus Kahn said that while the first half was not the team's strongest, the group showed resilience in the second.

"I'm so glad and proud of our group for being resilient," he said. "It was a tough first half."

Going into the second half, both teams exchanged runs before Mary Washington built a comfortable 13-point lead with five minutes remaining. This lead would once again vanish after Emory forward Ethan Fauss tied the game, shooting a 3-pointer with 12 seconds left.

Having the final shot, sophomore guard and business administration major Kye Robinson attempted a shot from the left baseline, missing the rim entirely before having the ball rebounded by Mitchell.

Mitchell shot the ball, scoring in the last second and giving the Eagles a two-point lead to end the match.

"So much about the game was amazing, but the fact we won from a buzzer beater was even better," said Erin Landfair, a senior communication and digital studies major who was in the audience. "Getting to see the exact moment we knew we were winning the championship was worth the moments where we didn't think we would."

When asked about his shot, Robinson said that it was the best miss he could have made, allowing his team to win a championship.

"Definitely the best missed shot of my life," he said. "Because it led to a game winner."

According to an email sent by Executive Director of University Communications Amy Jessee, students were offered the chance to register for a seat on the fan bus, which also included two nights in a hotel, a reception and a ticket to the game to support the team.

"It was the most amazing experience getting to watch the fieldhouse be overtaken with Blue and Gray," said Landfair. "The UMW crowd was four times as loud as the others, and wrapped around the whole stadium."

Robinson said this support was great to see, especially from their fellow athletes.

"The community is everything to us really," he said. "Our men's lacrosse team had played a game either yesterday or today and then they drove up here immediately so it was pretty cool to see just everybody there."

Junior forward and business administration major Jay Randall agreed, adding that University President Troy Paino's attendance, along with everyone else, meant everything.

"Having the community at our back, our president even being here just means the world to us," said Randall.

This is a rematch from last year's NCAA Tournament, where Mary Washington fell to Emory in the Sweet 16. When asked in a conference before the game about this team, Kahn ensured that they were very different from last year due to their experience.



NCAA DIII champions UMW basketball celebrates after their 75-73 win. *Thomas Jackson / The Weekly Ringer*

"We're certainly a different team, much more experienced team than we were last year," said Kahn. "We're a different, and I think better, team. More poised for this moment team."

Going into the championship game, junior guard and business administration major Kaden Bates said that their goal was to stay focused in practice and not be distracted by all the attention.

"We've been trying to stay locked-in in practice and not getting distracted by all the outside variables and just listening to coach and trying to play hard and not goof off," he said.

With both the semifinal and final of the Tournament being played in Indianapolis, sophomore guard and computer science major Ulysses Young said that this opportunity was something that he had dreamed of.

"When you're a kid, you dream about playing in places like this," he said.

To avoid a repeat of Mary Washington's loss, emphasis was put on Emory's point guard Ben Pearce, the player who led Emory with 27 points in last year's game. When asked how they would stop him, Robinson said that when he is playing his best, no one on the court is better.

"I feel like no one can really compete with that if I play my best game," he said. "But he's a great player as well, so I think just containing him and making sure he doesn't get off too easy of buckets."

Limiting Pearce to only 10 points in the championship game helped the Eagles put an end to the best season in school history. Ending with their best ever record of 30-3, Mary Washington also received many individual honors including Robinson winning the Coast-to-Coast Athletic Conference Player of the Year award and Kahn receiving the Glenn Robinson National Coach of the Year award.

"We've all really enjoyed this experience," Kahn said. "It's been a long hardfought season. So to get to this point is quite an accomplishment."

Ky Huynh contributed to reporting for this article.



UMW students took a fan bus to Indianapolis to support the basketball team. *Thomas Jackson / The Weekly Ringer*

University of Mary Washington Spring Sports Schedule

ENYA CEA-LAVIN
Sports Editor

Men's Baseball (20-9)
Apr. 18 at #13 Salisbury University
Apr. 22 at #9 Bridgewater College
Apr. 23 vs RV Randolph-Macon College

Men's Lacrosse (6-7)
Apr. 18 vs Ursinus College
Apr. 21 at St. Mary's College of Maryland

Women's Lacrosse (8-6)
Apr. 18 at Christopher Newport University
Apr. 22 at Bridgewater College

Softball (16-16)
Apr. 18 at Salisbury University
Apr. 19 vs Catholic University
Apr. 22 vs Bridgewater College

Men's Tennis (16-4)
Apr. 18 at #23 Southwestern University
Apr. 21 vs #34 North Carolina Wesleyan University

Women's Tennis
Apr. 18 vs Rhodes College, Berry College
Apr. 19 AT #27 Sewanne
Apr. 22 vs Salisbury University

Track and Field
Apr. 17-18 at Christopher Newport University
Apr. 17-18 at Virginia Challenge

Games are available to watch via livestream on the UMW Athletics webpage
www.eagles.com/composite

-

Full schedule not listed above.
Most recent games included.
Bold indicates home game.