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# the matthew

JOHN CABOT UNIVERSITY • STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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## Women's March Reaches Rome

BY AUDREY SINCLAIR

On Saturday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, hundreds arrived at Piazza della Rotonda in front of the Pantheon for a "sister march" of the Women's March on Washington. A crowd diverse in age, race, and gender came for a peaceful gathering with concerns about the current state of American affairs.

As various speakers passed around a megaphone, signs waved through the air. 'I'm with her,' read one, with a large arrow pointing to Mother Earth. 'Embrace diversity,' read another with rainbow lettering. A third read 'Nasty women against fascism,' and more signs went on to address a range of issues. According to an official flier found at the Women's March, the goal was to gather for "peace and diplomacy,

an end to racism, civil rights and liberties, reproductive rights, LGBTQIA rights, worker's rights, immigrant rights, disability rights, and environmental justice."

A crowd of 17 John Cabot University students gathered at the Tiber campus the morning of the walk to the Pantheon, and even more students, alumni, and professors joined along the way or at the Piazza.

"I'm here because I want to be able to stand up for what I believe in," said Madeline Hyde, a junior from Dallas, Texas studying abroad at John Cabot this semester. "I want to be a part of change and progress."

The Roman rally was one of several hundred sister-marches happening worldwide. Marches were organized in many cities across the United States and others occurred in U.S. territories as well as in a number of countries on each of the seven continents.

"I'm here today for my family," said Rachael Littlehale, a visiting John Cabot student from Boston, MA. "for my rights, and their [LGBT] rights."

Enrica Barberis, a senior degree-seeker at John Cabot, organized the invitation for JCU students to walk to the rally together. "I think it's absolutely fundamental that we unite," said Barberis.



DEMONSTRATORS IN FRONT OF THE PANTHEON, ROME

PHOTO BY GABRIELLE SMALL



WASHINGTON, DC PROTEST

PHOTO BY OLIVIA WOHLERS

"There's so many strong feminists at John Cabot who never have the opportunity to do something so public."

While Barberis is Italian, she feels empathetic with her American peers. "Wherever in the world, we all have the same rights."

According to the official website of the women's march, there were 673 registered marches across

the globe following President Trump's inauguration day, with an estimated 4,876,700 marchers in attendance at the combined marches and rallies.

The organization is now calling individuals to participate in the "10 Actions, for the First 100 Days campaign," to keep the women's march community engaged in politics.

## HIROKO SASAKI: THE ART OF JAPANESE CUISINE

BY POLINA KUZNETSOVA

At Rokko, a Japanese restaurant in the heart of Rome, little glass doors open to unveil a cozy room. There are colorful cat figures beside the steps, which welcome everyone who enters. On the left is a sushi bar, where chef Takehisa works on his fish masterpieces. A female figure in pink kimono appears in the distance, greeting customers with a smile. This is Hiroko Sasaki, the owner of this Japanese oasis, lost in the stone jungles of antique Roman streets. Hiroko san is a truly inspiring person. She is petite and delicate, yet possesses a fierce determination and intelligence in running a successful restaurant business, despite the high taxes and rent. It is not easy to preserve the authenticity of the original Japanese cuisine in the Western world, where customers are only interested in sushi. Hiroko refuses to suppress the personality

of her restaurant and carefully maintains Japanese traditions. Rokko has a classical Japanese interior. The light brown dining room is decorated with bamboo and the wooden fan lanterns. The lights are slightly faded, which makes the atmosphere intimate and homey. A slim figure of Hiroko's mother exits the kitchen with a big smile on her face. On my last visit, she had a bowl of salmon and potato croquettes in her hands, which she had cooked just for me. Every time I look into her lively eyes, I can't stop reminding myself that of the honor to be fed by such a legendary woman.

In fact, Hiroko's parents marked an important day in both Italian and Japanese history. During the 1960's in Italy, the couple opened the first Japanese restaurant, along with a supermarket and boutique. As Hiroko recalls, Italians of that time were not familiar with Japanese cuisine.

Politicians, actors, and Japanese diplomats were the only clients.

Today Hiroko makes sure her family tradition continues to live within the walls of this little Japan in the heart of Rome. You can see its lively spirit here and there – the porcelain Japanese dolls, which she received from her grandmother, the colorful fans, the cute kitty calendars and the wooden carved creatures. There is even a Japanese zen garden in one of the dining rooms. The sounds of its streaming water in symphony with the flute melodies brings one to the country of the rising sun. Rokko itself is named after a mountain in the province of Kobe, where her father was born.

Although Hiroko was born in Rome, she grew up a true daughter of Japan, as she always followed Japanese traditions, and even got her bachelor degree in International Business at the University of Tokyo. There,

she learned an essential lesson. "In Tokyo you can't just stand there and look at the sky. You should flow with the crowd wherever you are – the pedestrian cross or at school. You should adjust to the pace," Hiroko says, reflecting back on her college years. Perfectionism, a common trait of the Japanese mentality, can be seen in everything Hiroko and her team do.

Quality in everything is the essential part of Rokko's authenticity. Famous Japanese Chef, Takehisa Haraguchi, is a master of his craft and creates his signature recipes for both Japanese and Italian clients. Hiroko always encourages her clients to try traditional and particular dishes. Here you can find dishes like gyoza, Japanese dumplings with vegetables and meat, variety of seaweed salads with dressings created by chef, rice noodles or soups. Each dish is made with love and genuine warmth and this is what makes Rokko stand out.

Sometimes it is not easy to run business in Italy. "Making Italians understand the concept of authentic Japanese cuisine is still a challenge. In fact, even sushi became popular only in the last decade," says Hiroko, "In Japan there is a culture of eating out. Everybody eats out in Japan. Here families prefer to eat at home." Nevertheless, Hiroko keeps going. She creates a friendly, cozy atmosphere for each client. Whether Italian or Japanese, she treats each of them as if they were her guests, who stepped in her blooming abode, full of delicious smells and inviting sounds.

Hiroko and her family are the type of people you only meet once in a lifetime. Japanese people do not always show their emotions, but once you get to know them better, they will become your true friends, let you see their world and invite you to explore it together.



# Speak Up for Your Dreams



BY CASSIDY SLOCKETT

"If we can make just \$1, we can make \$1,000,000," Charles Tabansi told his business partner and friend Marco Pecchio, as they struggled to turn a haphazard bet into a full-time business.

Dreamers Communications is a startup that Tabansi founded in Rome with the help of his friend Marco, a Communications student at John Cabot University. The company currently works with Italians, mostly students and young business clients, to help people maximize clients' public speaking skills and develop the self-confidence needed to achieve goals.

Tabansi gives much of the success to Professor Silvia Pulino, who encouraged and supported the business idea. "Dreamers [Communications] addresses a sore gap in the Italian preparation of young entrepreneurs, i.e. the ability to persuasively present the highlights of a project in a concise and persuasive manner," Prof. Pulino

said. "Charles and Marco teach how to tell a story so that the listener wants to learn more," she added.

With the help of Professor Pulino, the duo had the opportunity to train employees from SGL Relogistics, a technological solutions company based in Rome for Silicon Valley, even while they were still studying at John Cabot University.

Dreamers Communications has recently found great success in training Italian students from La Sapienza, an Italian university in Rome. In the coming year, the two plan to expand the brand and train companies in Milan, Bologna, and Turin, as well as hire marketing specialists to promote the company.

Anyone who has met Tabansi immediately senses that this New Yorker is a confident and extroverted person. Being a student in Italy, he had observed that many of his classmates struggled with formulating and presenting their ideas in front of an audience, especially in English.

As self-assured as Tabansi may have been, Dreamers Communications didn't start off as an instant success. The second client was a complete failure. There was a lack of understanding about the Italian tax laws, and Dreamers Communications lost 66% of the profit, therefore making only 325€ instead of the 1000€ that had been promised.

"Better to fail in the beginning than later on," Tabansi said, refusing to give up on his goals. He vowed

to stay positive and learn the tax system as swiftly as possible.

Two years ago, when Tabansi was a Business Administration student, a friend dared him to enter the school's Elevator Pitch Competition, which is touted as a way of presenting a business idea and "Capturing the other person's attention to prompt him/her to action," all in the span of one minute.

Tabansi haphazardly made it to the final round of the competition. It was here that the business idea was born. He learned public speaking techniques, and realized that he was actually quite a talented public speaker. Tabansi and Peccio then formed SPEAK UP, where the duo trained university students about the basics of public speech.

"One day, I was training this group and I turned to Marco and said, 'Hey man, we need to turn this into a business.'" It was in this exact moment that the two realized they were offering essential tools for professionals and could be paid to hold these trainings. The combination of natural public speaking talent and brute determination, the two were able to transform SPEAK UP into the official business of Dreamers Communications immediately after they earned bachelor's degrees.

Want to become a master public speaker? Join Charles and Marco for their next workshop on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Send them an email at: [info@dreamerspro.com](mailto:info@dreamerspro.com) or find out more information on their website: [www.dreamerspro.com](http://www.dreamerspro.com).

## CAT-CALLING

BY MAGGIE VLAJ

For those of us women studying abroad at JCU, an increase in catcalls isn't particularly uncommon in our first months at school, especially if we're studying abroad from places that are more liberal with gender roles. While we cannot immediately change cultures of misogyny, there are ways to avoid it, deal with it, and positively channel the feelings we experience.

### Dress like a local

No one should ever be sexually assaulted based on their clothing (or lack thereof), but it's always good to assimilate to the local fashion rules. What goes in Miami probably does not "go" here. This isn't to say that dressing to Italian standards will stop all of the catcalls, nor is it to say that you have to stop dressing the way you want - but it might help.

### Safety first, insult second

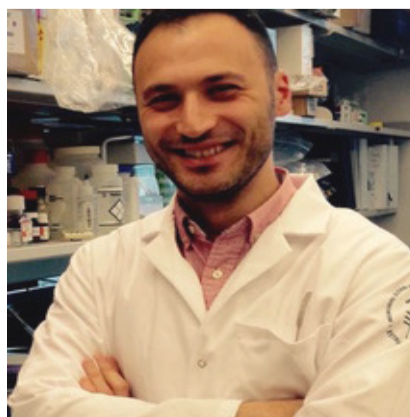
Serving those nasty catcallers a good comeback is always so tempting, but you have to remember your own personal safety. Sure, comebacks are almost always good for use in broad daylight and with people you know, but it doesn't work the same at night in a Trastevere bar. As a matter of fact, insulting them back in this situation can actually put you in a worse position. So no, you cannot change a culture overnight. But yes, if you're in a safe situation (in a well-lit, familiar area with friends), insulting the cat-caller will help you preserve your sanity and emotional well-being, give 'em hell.

### Block out the haters (literally)

Want to walk to campus without getting catcalled by a greasy, old man? Pro tip: put on some headphones. Not only will you be able to ignore them, but you'll have a very enjoyable commute to class. Plus, we all know that music is one of the greatest coping mechanisms.

### Be fair to Italy

Yes, the international treatment of women is cringey at best, but it's not fair to return home from your time abroad in Rome and say "all Italian guys suck, all they do is catcall." I'm calling you out, American study abroad girls: sure, Italian society sometimes encourages this culture of catcalling and misogyny, but we have an obligation as (very privileged) travelers to remember that these things don't define our experiences in Italy! Even if you do experience a lot of catcalling while in Rome, remember to have fun while you're at it. This isn't to scare you from going out with friends at night or from traveling to other countries, but it serves as a friendly reminder of the things you should watch out for!



PROFESSOR CARLUCCI, NEW YORK

## JOEY<sup>2</sup> REVIEWS

### LA LA LAND

BY JOSEPH ARMENIO

In a world where musicals in the past decade have been pretty lame, it's easy to think poorly about the genre. When people hear "cinematic musicals", you usually think of something along the lines of *Rock of Ages*, *Mamma Mia*, or *Les Miserables* - movies which, if you're not really into the whole musical thing, you probably won't like. I was worried *La La Land* would follow suit with my expectations. I saw it pretty late in the game, and had been hearing mixed reviews for about a month. Considering it just came out in Rome a couple days ago, I was finally able to watch it for myself. The movie relied heavily on the nostalgia and clichés popular in the cinematic musical genre on purpose. Even so, there is, and always will be a fine line when a movie attempts to showcase a series of clichés. Will it stay close to the comically cute, or drift towards the overused and unfunny? In this case, *La La Land* stayed true to the line. Watching it, I could see why some would think it was over-the-top. At times the movie felt like it was trying a little too hard to be perfect. Almost as if it were forcing it a little much.

I don't think anyone could deny that as a romance, it was fantastic. The movie is worth seeing just for the chemistry between Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone alone. It's the musical aspect where people don't always agree 100%. I personally liked it, though I wouldn't consider myself as a musical type. I've never particularly liked the genre, but this movie plays to all the best parts of it. It reminds the viewer of how it used to be, when people used to flock and see movies like *The Sound of Music* or *Grease*. People have always loved that sort of thing, as long as it's done correctly.

The film was visually vibrant and colorful. The cinematography is most likely going to win in the upcoming Academy Awards. Director and writer Damien Chazelle did a great job. He also directed the 2014 movie *Whiplash* which has parallel qualities to *La La Land* through the love of jazz and similar styles.

Okay, it's grading time people. I really liked it, but I do see occasional flaws here and there. It's probably going to win Best Picture and for what it was trying to do, it fits the bill. That is why I'm giving it an A. Not an A+ or anything, but a nice solid and perfectly respectable A.

Watch it in English at Cinema Fiamma Multisala this week at 3:40, 6:20, 9:00, and 10:30 p.m. If you don't know the movie theater, it's the nice one just past Piazza Barberini.



## BRAIN DRAIN: ITALIAN IN NYC

BY CRISTINA DI LEVA

Giuseppe Carlucci, 34-year-old promising Italian medical researcher, was recently appointed as assistant professor at the NYU Langone Medical Center, one of the most prominent US medical centers for patient care, education and research.

Carlucci, like many Italian millennials, moved abroad where, thanks to his efforts and meritocracy, passed from a research scholar position to assistant professor in two years. In 2015, 36% of Italians aged 18 to 34 left Italy for other European countries and North America.

"I've never thought about a place where I have been in the last ten years as the place where I would spend the rest of my life," said Carlucci. He was born and raised in Lavello, in southern Italy. He attended Federico II di Svevia Scientific Lyceum in Melfi and, like many other teenagers, didn't know what type of career to pursue. "Medicine, chemistry, and biology have always fascinated me," he said.

After high school, he majored in Biotechnology at the University of Tor Vergata. "Although I passed the tests for Medicine, I choose a more technological and biomedical oriented major" he continued. He graduated in 2007 with full marks and honor, and then graduated in Medical Biotechnology at Sapienza University. One month later, he was working at Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS), Italy's main center for research, monitoring, and public health advice, where he stayed until 2009.

Carlucci claims, "I have specific needs from a professional point of view: I

always crave new incentives. I don't like to settle down, nor to think to a job as my lifetime job. I like changes."

The need to grow and seek interesting opportunities pushed Carlucci to leave ISS and move to the Netherlands. At the beginning of 2009, Carlucci started his Ph.D. program in Radiochemistry and Molecular Imaging in Groningen.

In 2013, he came back to Rome, hoping that having earned a degree, a master's degree and a Ph.D. in Medical Sciences would have helped him to find a qualified job for his competencies. He started to work for a pharmaceutical consultancy agency; yet, even this time, there were no chances for a real professional growth.

"I lived in Rome for almost a year. Clearly, it's nice to be home; you have your friends... A great year from a personal point of view, while a not so good from a professional one. I felt like in a cage," Carlucci explained.

During a dinner with American friends, Carlucci decided to bet on his future. The next day, he sent his CV to American medical centers: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC), in New York, and John Hopkins Medicine, in Baltimore. "I just wanted to see if they would have responded me," he said.

A few hours later, Carlucci received an email from the director of the Center for Molecular Imaging and Nanotechnology at MSKCC, Dr. Jason Lewis, saying that they were looking for someone with a similar

professional profile. A few days after a Skype interview, Carlucci was offered a research scholar position at New York's MSKCC, where he started working in March of 2014. He claimed, "As soon as they offered me a position, I accepted it."

"When you live in the same place for a long time, you are always exposed to the same people, way of thinking, and types of problems. While when you decide to question yourself," he exclaimed, "you enter a new environment where you meet new people who might also have a different work approach from yours. It's not only a personal growth, but also a professional one."

As a research scholar, Carlucci works in the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. He focuses on the design of companion imaging agents for determining drug susceptibility and target engagement in the preclinical and translational setting. These agents will help us to understand the molecular mechanisms of drug action, shedding new light on tumor cell pathology and helping to predict why some patients respond well to certain treatment regimes.

Last December, he started working as an assistant professor with a three-year-contract faculty position at NYU Langone Medical Center. He is also radiochemist and principal investigator of his own research group.

"To live away from home, it must be worth it," he said, "And for what I do now, it is definitely worth it."



# Clubs of JOHN CABOT UNIVERSITY

Women's Leadership Initiative Student Government and Business Club organized a great event this semester

**February 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Far from Equal: The Gender Gap in the Workplace**, with three guest speakers.  
From 2 - 3:30 p.m.  
Aula Magna Regina

Followed by:  
**Breaking the Glass Ceiling: A workshop on Gender Stereotypes in the Workplace.**  
Led by Sophie Lambert, FAO  
From 4 - 6 p.m.  
Aula Magna Regina  
Limited seats

## MUN SUCCEEDS AGAIN

BY OLEKSANDRA VERESCHAK

The Seventh Edition of the JCU Model United Nations Conference January 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> brought 102 students together. Pupils from the United States, Italy, Sweden, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ukraine, Germany, India, Turkey, Israel, China, Czech Republic, New Zealand, Latvia, Pakistan, Mozambique, Slovakia, and Hungary came to JCU to debate on two topics of resonance and importance to the international community.

The first global issue, "Tackling Terrorism: Struggles to the International Funds Financing Terrorist Actors" was prepared and chaired by Davide Orsitto, JCU Alumnus, and Leonardo Rivalenti, an International Affairs student. The second important topic, "Taking Effective Steps

to Stop Climate Change," was developed and moderated by MUN President Giuseppe Spatafora, a senior in International Affairs, and the Society's Secretary Alejandra Palacios, a freshman double majoring in International Affairs and Business.

For the first time, the opening ceremony was held in the prestigious auditorium of the Academia dei Lincei thanks to the support of President Franco Pavoncello, who was the first to welcome delegates to the JCU community. Associate Dean Pamela Harris, the Society's advisor, introduced them to the MUN world, while invited keynote speakers Dr. Francesca Galli and Dr. Doaa Abdel-Motaal shared their expertise on the topic. UN reporting officer, Filippo Rosin, concluded the ceremony by talking about his experience in UN peacekeeping missions. Delegates



in the room felt inspired about a possible future with the UN. The conference flowed smoothly, thanks to the team of twenty volunteers and organizers, led by Oleksandra Vereschak, a senior doublemajoring in Economics & Finance and Marketing. The participants were impressed

by the level of preparation, organization, and professionalism demonstrated by our university. The Society would like to thank all the offices, faculty, and students who supported and assisted them throughout the conference, and look forward to working on JCU MUN 2018.

# MARKETING FOR REAL

BY SHERYL RAGNETTI

The Marketing Club was formed by a group of students who felt that it was necessary for the university to offer free professional marketing consultancy. The students felt that by just studying the theories of this major was simply not enough to succeed as a future professional marketer or entrepreneur.

This semester, the club has several upcoming projects. The first project concerns a new start-up called Roma Luxury, a local startup.

They will be helping the company form a digital marketing strategy to launch this new initiative. The Managing Director of this initiative will present the strategy to the company and participants will have the possibility of being hired by Roma Luxury. The Marketing Club President Andrei Marcu says, "this is a great opportunity for one of our students."

The second project will be the Google Online Marketing Challenge, which is

explained on the website as, "a unique opportunity for students to experience and create online marketing campaigns using Google AdWords."

With a \$250 budget, students will spend three weeks developing an advertising campaign for a business or non-profit organization. Students of all majors are welcome to participate. The team that develops the most successful campaign wins a seven-night trip to San Francisco, including a day trip

to the Google Headquarters in Mountain View, California.

The Marketing Club offers many opportunities to enterprising, active and keen students looking for a challenge. Plus, this is a wonderful opportunity to make connections, and perhaps even make friendships with like-minded people.

Meetings are Mondays at 12:45 p.m. in T.G.4.

# CLUBS SPOTLIGHT: STAND

BY TAMARA VOLOZHANINA

Being a part of an international community also means being aware and helping those less fortunate from us. An excellent example of this is JCU's STAND Club. The club volunteers and works tirelessly to improve the lives of refugees coming to Rome from Syria and other countries.

"Our JCU students' mission is to provide the refugees with basic resources, so that they can at least satisfy their everyday needs," said Rita Simone, the treasurer of STAND.

In order to raise money for charity, STAND students organize book sales, sell pastries, and encourage textbook donations each semester. This year, they were able to earn more than 8,000€ in the book sales alone, some of which will be donated to the Jordan Refugee Center.

"We donated 400€ to the Jordan Refugee Center, thanks to which they bought twenty-four blankets and ten heaters, which was good, since winter gets super cold there, even below zero degrees at night," Simone said.

There are big plans for STAND's future. "We will have our first trip activity during spring break. We

are going to Jordan to visit this refugee center which we provided with aid during this past winter break," Simone continued, "We're actually going to meet all these people, and we plan to donate more stuff once we get there."

This project is one of many actions undertaken by STAND, including raising more than 10,000€ last year. STAND Club has always been helping the Joel Nafuma Refugee Center, located on Via Nazionale in Rome.

"What we do here at John Cabot with STAND is huge. We're part of a real organization that helps the people who come to the center, and we try to help them to start a new life," Simone explained, "By volunteering, by spending some time with them, I think we make all of it a bit easier to manage. We have been growing a lot since the past, and with the resources we have obtained, we will do better every semester."

STAND members are helping to build bridges between cultures, countries, and generations. They depict what real generosity is about, and they are incredibly inspiring to all of JCU. Let's take a minute to thank them for all what they have already achieved and will undoubtedly achieve in the future: these guys do make the difference.

For more information email: stand@johncabot.edu



JCU Theatre Society Auditions!  
February 21, 7 p.m.  
"The Awesome 80's Prom"  
theatresociety@johncabot.edu

Chinese Culture Club  
Celebrate Chinese New Year!  
February 8, 7 p.m.  
Aula Magna  
Tickets are 3€ until February 7, and 5€ afterwards.  
Eat Chinese food and tea, write Chinese letters

Student Government  
Sex Education Talk  
February 13, 6-8 p.m.  
Aula Magna  
PROF Talks with Arnone  
February 16  
Aula Magna

Join the NEW Chess Club!  
First meeting February 6  
Clubs Room in Tiber  
3-5 p.m.



# 4 ASK Ms Cabot

Dear Ms. Cabot,

Where can I go shopping within walking distance from Trastevere?

Sincerely,  
Desperate Shopper

Dear Desperate Shopper,

Fashion is a *modo di vivere* in Italy, and Italians have long been known for their fine and exquisite taste in fashion. If you are looking to add some new pieces to your wardrobe this semester, the shopping scene in Rome will not disappoint. There are two major shopping hotspots in Rome: Via Cola di Rienzo and Via del Corso.

Via Cola di Rienzo is in the Prati neighborhood behind Castel Sant'Angelo. There are a lot of cool boutiques if you want to find some Italian-made, one-of-a-kind pieces. If you're a fan of the department store model, check out Coin Excelsior which has clothes, shoes and accessories from a wide arrange of brands and designers.

Via del Corso sits between Piazza Venezia and Piazza del Popolo. This is more traditional shopping street with a wide variety of designer stores interspersed with small boutiques here and there. If you are a Zara-holic like me you will be happy to

find a four-story Zara with a wide selection of styles. This is also a great street if you know exactly what you are looking for. If you need some new denim, check out the Levi or Diesel store. If you are looking for some new athletic clothes or shoes go to the PUMA or Nike store.

Twice Vintage Shop on Via di S. Francesco a Ripa in Trastevere is the place to go if vintage is your aesthetic. They have an eclectic selection of pieces spanning several decades. This is the place to go if you have been itching for a classic leather jacket or some unique 60s-style dresses.

If you have not yet bought souvenirs for all of your friends and family at home, my favorite place to go is the gift store in Vatican City. I have found that they usually have good-quality items, as opposed to a lot of the low-quality souvenirs that I have seen at some tourist trap gift shops. If you come from a Catholic background like I do, you also added benefit of getting religious items like rosaries or saint medals at the Vatican which can mean a lot for whomever you are buying the gifts.

Yours truly,  
Ms. Cabot

Got questions? Send an email to: [newsparerjohncabot.edu](mailto:newsparerjohncabot.edu)

## FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome back, John Cabot Community!

I hope you had a good winter break and are ready for the new exciting semester ahead of us.

*The Matthew* is thrilled to be back with a new team! Our all-female board (with male help from Joey and Joel) has worked hard to put the newspaper together. I hope that from reading this issue your further engage with the diverse stories and insights from our JCU community, and with the voices here represented.

We kept many of the parts that made *The Matthew* popular last semester, like the controversial "Shattering Stigmas" monthly article on a taboo topic, fun comics, as well as the Ms Cabot section. This first Spring issue has new sections too: we have put together a full page dedicated to clubs because we believe a lot of students need a little more guidance on clubs to join and events to attend. So, make the most out of it guys!

I would like to thank with all my heart our amazing advisor, Professor Elizabeth Macias Gutierrez for her enthusiasm and

great ideas. She is a true inspiration for us. And, today, February 6, I'd like to wish a happy birthday to a beautiful soul and a real role model for me. She knows: HBJ!!

Feel free to send us comments, and if you wish to write for us, please do not hesitate to stop us around campus or email us.

Stay tuned for next month's newscast, making JCU history.

Yours,  
Enrica Barberis



# SHATTERING STIGMAS

BY FEDERICA BOCCO

Society has a problem with bisexuality: we like to pretend that it's not real.

Bisexual women are seen as straight, but faking. Bisexual men are seen as gay, but faking. What do these two scenarios have in common? Both want to assume everyone likes men. That is not always the case.

Despite myths, bisexuals do exist. They are very good at blending in, because contrary to popular opinion, they don't actually sell their soul to the devil, *à la* Dorian Grey. They are a minority, whose trait is not immediately visible just by looking. That is what makes bisexuality easy to ignore. As a matter of fact, besides homophobia, bisexuality has two archenemies that go together like peanut and jelly. They are heteronormativity and erasure.

Heteronormativity has its roots beneath the surface of ideology. It leads to the

assumption that everyone is straight until proven otherwise. Bisexual erasure does heteronormativity's dirty work when it comes to representation in pop culture.

Bisexuals are not confused, nor experimenting. They are not simply going through a phase. Bisexuality is a valid form of sexuality, and it is part of a person's identity.

Hear it loud: When a bisexual dates someone of the opposite sex, it doesn't mean they become straight. Or that they have been straight all along. They are still bisexual. They maintain the potential to like all sexes regardless of their current partner's gender. Similarly, a man faithfully married to his wife can still find other women attractive.

A bisexual is still bisexual, regardless of who they love: a man, a woman, a non-binary, or eighty cats.

Popular media have had a hard time accurately representing those who stray from the norm. Statistics have always been a tricky business when it comes to the LGBTQIA community.

According to a Guardian report, approximately 10% of the U.S. population are queer; bisexuals are predominant in the category.

The younger generations, who are more accepting and inclusive, the number increases significantly: a YouGov survey conducted in the UK in 2015 shows that 49% of 18-24 year-olds described themselves as "not completely heterosexual, and leaning, even slightly, into bisexuality. Millennials might just be the most bisexual generation since Ancient Athens.

Unfortunately, some of the most common misconceptions about bisexuality are still prevalent, even among the most accepting and open-

minded social groups. Misinformation and misrepresentation have contributed to the opinions that some people have about bisexuality. Bisexuals are even sometimes stigmatized by the gay community itself.

Those who are part of the LGBTQIA community might not yet be ready to share their sexuality with the world. Coming out is, and always should be, this person's choice.

On a final note, if you want to have a respectful and peaceful relationship with a bisexual person, here's some things you should avoid asking them: (1) when are they going to pick a side, (2) which they prefer, (3) if they just do it for fun, (4) if they miss one gender when they're with the other. When straight people ask these questions, bisexuals are confused and frustrated... by your ignorance.

## Languages are the key to success: German classes in JCU

BY SHERYL RAGNETTI

"One of the major characteristics of John Cabot University is its great internationality. This is one of the things that I love the most of our university and, therefore, I strongly believe that we have to know at least three or more languages." These are the words of our German language professor, Frauke Schweers Hamp.

Prof. Schweers Hamp, from Germany, has travelled to numerous countries around the world, including Namibia, where she lived and taught German for five years, and Indonesia, where she taught in the Swiss-German University for nine years. Prof. Schweers Hamp

got to know JCU through her other job at the Goethe Institute, the German Cultural Center located here in Rome.

As Prof. Schweers Hamp loves to say, "In our globalized world, those who want to succeed in life, to have more and better opportunities in their career cannot absolutely feel satisfied if they know just one or two languages."

Learning German can produce a great number of benefits: it opens the doors for to work in Germany or Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, or other the regions in Northern Italy.

In addition, Germany's economy is one of the most

advanced, and finding a job, planning a semester abroad or a master there would be an incredible opportunity.

Despite the common belief that depicts German as a difficult language to learn, one that is not catchy or listenable, German is good to learn for the music, culture, philosophy, cinema and literature linked to it.

Prof. Schweers Hamp's lessons are proactive, engaging, and based on a type of learning called "emotional learning," which goes in two ways. She says, "I learn from students as much as they learn from me."

In her lectures, students interact with each other through dialogue,

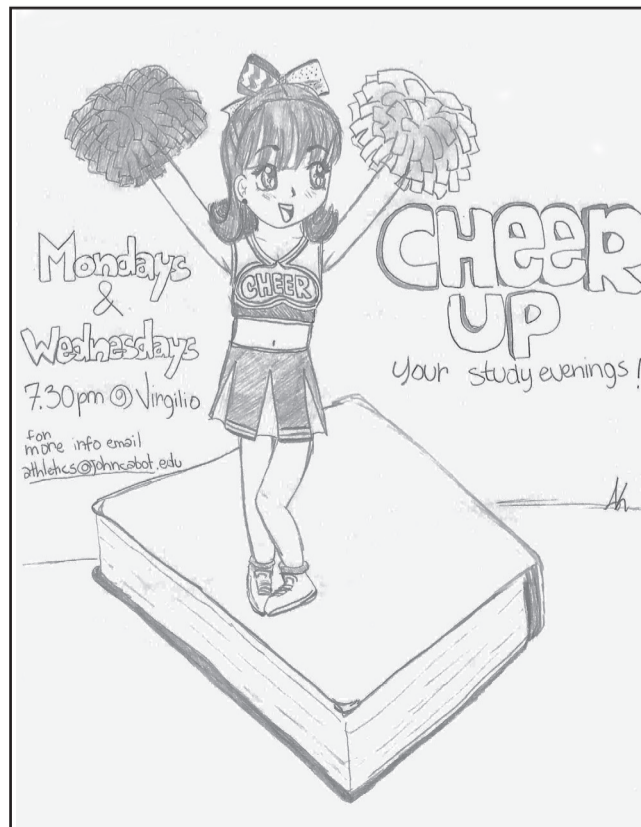
communication activities, games, and listening and comprehension activities.

This approach seems a bit unusual for a university level class, but Prof. Schweers Hamp explains it is simply the application of this so-called "emotional learning," which requires the professor's personal engagement and commitment. "If the professor is not really into what he or she is teaching, there is no way in which the student will feel involved and interested," she explains, "It is my objective: make the lesson fun and enjoyable both for the students and for me, because teaching is and must be a pleasure."

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