

ATCA  
378.755  
R552  
V.113  
NO.10  
C-2

LEXINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARY  
1000 W. MARKET ST.  
LEXINGTON, KY 40502

## Keydets march for McDonnell

VMI is featured in the inaugural parade for the governor on Saturday. See the action in the Phi editor's photo spread.

NEWS / page 2

## Looking to expand your music taste this year?

The staff of WLUR tells readers which bands deserve a listen in 2010.

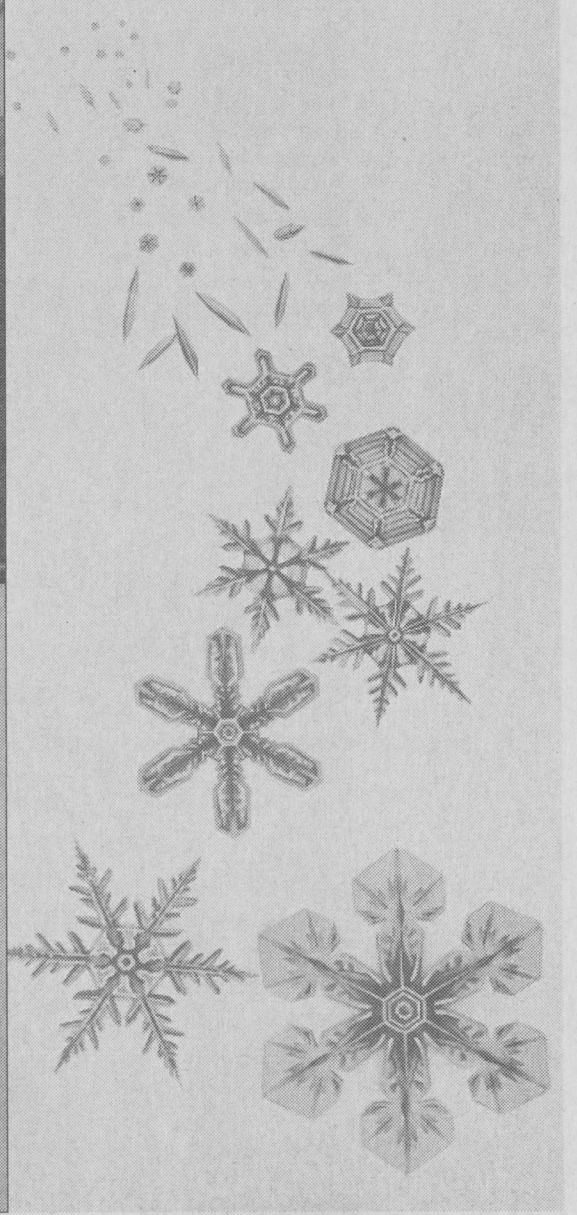
ARTS & LIFE / page 5

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

# THE RING-TUM PHI.

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2010

BY THE STUDENTS AND FOR THE STUDENTS SINCE 1897 VOLUME CXIII, NUMBER 10



## Stranded in the snow

Historic blizzard hits Rockbridge County at the end of finals, making travelling home hard for many W&L students

By Kirsten Kyne  
STAFF WRITER

300 students' Winter Break was postponed when the largest snowstorm in 100 years hit Lexington. Many students who were expecting to leave after their last final late in the week were disappointed upon hearing that I-81 was completely inaccessible. The University did not have any

been made to students on campus, but it was fun."

Some students were able to walk to Kroger, which remained open despite the storm, and used the kitchens in Gaines residence hall. Other students' families were with them so they went to local restaurants. First-year Zachary Huey was able to dine at local favorite Southern Inn

"They kept the roads fairly clean and had people working hard to keep the sidewalks usable, every available shovel was on the job of keeping the situation livable," said Huey.

Schuyler felt that the University did a good job keeping their students informed about the situation. "They sent out plenty of e-mails warning us about the weather."

Students made the best of their less than ideal situation. "I built a giant snowman, took pictures, made hot chocolate, and watched Christmas movies," said Coburn. Huey was able to build an igloo with his brother.

"Luckily, some of my friends were also snowed in so we were able to hang out and unwind from the stress of finals' week," said Annie Zhang. "We went sledding and took pictures."

The city of Lexington had not been anticipating the severity of such a large blizzard heading their way. "I got stuck in a ditch Friday and I had to wait for a tow truck that didn't come for three hours," said Schuyler. "I was supposed to wait by my car for eight hours the next day for a tow truck, it was still snowing outside. Luckily, I found someone to tow my car quickly."



COURTESY OF EW MALACHOSKY

The freshman quad and Lee Chapel peek out from under almost two feet of snow. Parts of Rockbridge County experienced snowfall totaling up to 28 inches during the storm on the weekend of Dec. 19.

"Some of my friends were also snowed in so we were able to hang out and unwind from the stress of finals week. We went sledding and took pictures."

ANNIE ZHANG, first-year

plan to deal with a situation as serious as this unexpected snowstorm. The dining hall had already shut down for the break so students who lived on campus had no access to food.

"I understand that the workers at D-Hall probably couldn't get there either, but there was no food at all," said first-year Matthew Coburn. "More accommodations could have

with his dad and brother.

Dominos pizza was a big favorite among those remaining on campus.

"The buffalo chicken pizza is 'noice,'" said first-year Alex Schuyler.

Although there wasn't food available for the first few days, students agree that the University did a good job of making sure the sidewalks and roads were clear.

See "Snow" on page 2

# Winter fun in the sun...and sand

Taglit-Birthright program sends four W&L students to Israel for winter break, giving them the experience of a lifetime

By Eleanor Kennedy and Levi Throckmorton  
STAFF WRITERS

For most Washington and Lee students, the question "What did you do over break?" yields a fairly boring answer.

But for seniors Emily Martin and Zach Segall and sophomores Josh Posner and Lev Raslin, the answer was anything but boring. These lucky students spent 10 days in Israel over break through Taglit-Birthright Israel.

The Birthright program is free for Jewish students. Private philanthropists, the Israeli government and Jewish communities fund it. In order to participate in the program, students must fill out an application, write an essay, and be interviewed.

According to Segall, the pro-

cess is not particularly demanding but "it does really- almost entirely- on luck, as spot on most trips are in pretty high demand."

While in Israel, the W&L students travelled with 40 other students from around the country, as well as seven Israeli soldiers in civilian clothes, according to Posner and Raslin.

Posner said he enjoyed traveling with the Israeli soldiers. "It was cool to get to know them as peers rather than soldiers. They were our age," he said.

The students traveled through almost every part of Israel during the trip. They visited some famous and memorable sights such as The Golan Heights, the

West Bank, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. They also rode camels in the Negev desert and went to the Dead Sea.

"My favorite part was bonding with other Jewish people my age and the Israeli soldiers."

Josh Posner, sophomore

For Segall, one of the most amazing parts of the trip was Yad Vashem, the Israeli holocaust memorial and museum.

While visiting the beautifully constructed museum, the students

saw what Segall describes as "the single most moving tribute to the holocaust I have ever seen in my life."

Raslin said the Ein Gedi, a waterfall oasis in the middle of the desert, was his favorite site among the places he visited.

"It is also a sanctuary for various animals and was definitely

a refreshing break from the hot sun," he said.

Raslin said the trip was also a cultural learning experience.

"We were there for the last day of Chanukah as well as Christmas, so we felt very honored to spend the day in Israel and see the relationships between different cultures," he said.

Posner also enjoyed learning about Israel from a different point of view.

"My favorite part was bonding with other Jewish people my age and the Israeli soldiers," he said. "It was good to get an insider's perspective on the country."

The students said they formed friendships with the other Jewish

students and the Israelis quickly and easily during the trip.

"The best part of the experience for me was coming away with a new sense of Jewish pride, as well as the speed with which we made friends," said Raslin.

"It's usually difficult for me to make friends quickly, and the fact that everyone was there for the same reason sort of facilitated the speed of making new friends."

W&L Hillel has participated in the Birthright program for seven years.